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## INTRODUCTION.

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“As soon as ever you perceive in the streets of Constantinople any persons making towards you in a waistcoat and drawers, barelegged, with only pumps on and a poniard in their hands, you must unsheath your sword. Some indeed take the precaution to carry it naked under their coat.” Thus writes one of the most intelligent travellers in the East,—and similar remarks have been so frequently repeated as to produce the common impression that Turkey is far beyond the pale of civilization. Such in fact were my own views until a residence of nearly a year in that country enabled me to estimate at their proper value the representations of ignorant or prejudiced travellers.

In the following pages I have attempted to preserve a record of my own impressions, without reference to the descriptions of many preceding tourists, who seem to have taken a marvellous pleasure in exaggerating the vices and suppressing the good points of the Turkish character. It will be found that in my estimate of the Turks I coincide with a reverend traveller, who asserts that “There is no people without the pale of Christianity who are better disposed towards its most essential precepts.”



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# SKETCHES OF TURKEY

IN 1831 AND '32.

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## CHAPTER I.

Departure from New-York—Flores and Corvo—Interview with an English Officer—Straits of Gibraltar—Current—Dangers of the Straits—Tarifa—Gibraltar.

THE American traveller, who leaves his native shores and finds himself for the first time launched upon the ocean, very naturally deems it a matter of high interest to preserve a record of his marvellous nautical adventures, and of his hair-breadth escapes from the perils of the sea. If he has predetermined to write a book, the ship's log is faithfully copied; and this, with a minute register of occurrences during his passage across the Atlantic, often forms no inconsiderable portion of a work which purports to contain a description of France, England, or Italy.

Our first impressions of the ocean are doubtless very striking; yet the novelty soon wears off, and ennui quickly takes the place of excitement and marvel. When we have witnessed the rising and setting sun, and experienced a gale and a calm,—when we have seen a whale and a water-spout,



a flying-fish, a Portuguese man-of-war, and a few other delicate monsters of the deep,—our ignorant wonder is soon exhausted, and the raw landsman and veteran tar regard them with the same indifference. They both agree in pouring forth maledictions upon an adverse wind,—both “damn with faint praise” a light breeze, even if favourable; and both cordially unite in execrating a calm. In fact, notwithstanding all that has been said or sung in favour of the sea, the most pleasurable moment is when we discover land. But even this pleasure is not unalloyed. It is requisite that it shall be the very land we expect and wish to see; that we shall be able to recognise it; and that our approach to it shall not be accompanied by such a very favourable gale as to hurry us precipitately on shore without the customary nautical formalities.

Our readers will then doubtless be well pleased to skip with us across the Atlantic: indeed, the passage offered nothing remarkable except that, on the tenth day after leaving New-York, the islands of Flores and Corvo were discovered directly ahead. Notwithstanding the shortness of the passage, the weather has been uniformly good; and we have carried, during nearly the whole time, our loftiest sails. It is true that we met many vessels coming from an opposite direction, and of course with a contrary wind, bending and staggering under reefed topsails, and exhibiting every appearance of suffering under a violent gale. But driving merrily, as we were, before a favouring breeze, there was scarcely time to cast an eye of commiseration upon these luckless wights, when we were wafted smoothly many miles beyond them, and a brief hour sunk them in the western horizon.

In the course of our voyage, it was often afterward our lot to be contending against a head wind, while the veriest Dutch floating tubs would pass us before the wind with the speed of a race-horse. On such occasions we suffered amply for those feelings of exultation and vain-glorious triumph

which we had previously displayed towards less favoured vessels.

Corvo and Flores are the most northern of that extraordinary group which springs up in the midst of the Atlantic ocean, and known as the Azores, or Hawk Islands. They are of volcanic origin, and their appearance fully confirms this idea; for the crater of a large extinct volcano could be plainly distinguished on the north end of Flores. This island is about thirty miles in length, and its greatest elevation is 2000 feet. It contains 1500 Portuguese and negro inhabitants, who are represented as being nearly on a par in their intellectual capacities and acquirements.

Corvo, which is separated from Flores by a channel eight miles wide, is about five miles in extent and 1500 feet high. As we rounded its northern extremity at the distance of six miles, two craters were distinctly visible. The edge of one had been broken down over the side near the sea, while the other had preserved its form entire. Corvo appears to be a sterile rock, full of crags and rocky pinnacles, with sea-birds for its only inhabitants; but it contains many fertile valleys, and its population of 700 not only subsist comfortably, but are able to export grain and other commodities to the adjacent islands.\*

The sight of these islands, connected as they are geographically with the old world, gave us the first realizing impression that we were actually severed from America; and when they sunk far behind us in the west, as evening drew on, we for the first time felt that for months to come our thoughts and feelings must be connected with the eastern hemisphere.

Our progress for several days succeeding was much impeded by annoying calms; but a slight succession of those faint breathings of the wind technically termed cats-paws, consoled us with the idea that we were advancing on our

\* Webster.

voyage. During one of these calms we fell in with an English brig, apparently from the Mediterranean, and as the aspect of European affairs, when we left New-York, was rather cloudy, we were desirous of procuring further intelligence. She proved to be the *Phebe*, Captain Hill, from Corfu, bound to England. As I approached the brig, an unusual bustle was observed on board ; and, as I stepped over her side, I was accosted by the captain, in a hurried manner, with "Is it peace or war, sir?" As the purport of my visit was to obtain the same information, I replied by repeating his own question ; and it was not until I had explained who we were, and the pacific character of our vessel, that he appeared relieved from his anxiety.

From some of our men it was afterward ascertained, that as we pulled towards the brig, her crew was much alarmed from an idea that war had been declared, and that to impress some of them was the object of our visit.

From an English army officer, a passenger with his family on board this vessel, we learned that two regiments of soldiers are always stationed among the Ionian Islands, and are annually changed from one island to another. He represented all the islands as very unhealthy ; and he had been invalided home in consequence of a severe intermittent, which had entirely shattered his constitution. In the course of conversation, I happened incidentally to mention that I had been in England. "Oh! I understand now," exclaimed my military acquaintance, with the air of a man who fancies he has made a brilliant discovery, "why you speak English so well." I humoured his national vanity by gravely intimating that I had been specially selected by the captain, on account of my great proficiency in the noblest of all languages.

The nineteenth day after leaving New-York found us near the Straits of Gibraltar. The weather was so hazy that it was judged prudent to stand off until the next morning, but we were already within the influence of the current

or indraught which sets continually from the Atlantic into the Mediterranean.\* From the lightness of the wind we were compelled, although the night was setting in with many ill-omened appearances, to push boldly on through the straits. The wind blew irregularly from every point of the compass, with frequent intervals of stark calm. At one in the morning we found ourselves close in with a high rugged coast, and so near that every roll of the breakers grated harshly distinct upon the ear. The darkness was so great that we could not see from one end of the ship to the other; and as she drifted about entirely beyond the control of the helm, we expected every moment to find ourselves wrecked upon a barbarian shore. The only visible object was the huge and dusky outline of Cape Spartel, looming high in the air; so indistinct, however, as to prevent us from forming any opinion as to its distance. In this torturing state of breathless anxiety between shipwreck and slavery, we waited impatiently for the first gleam of day.† As day broke we found ourselves dangerously near a wild and savage shore; but a light and favourable breeze soon springing up, we were shortly afterward running rapidly through the straits.

The current sets with such rapidity as to form numerous tide-rips, eddies, and boiling whirlpools, which recalled our own Hellgate forcibly to mind. On our right was the rugged broken coast of Africa, along which not a vestige of human habitation, nor even a single tree, was visible. The Spanish coast resembled the African in its bold and picturesque outline; but numerous martello towers, dis-

\* See Appendix A.

† That we may not be suspected of exaggerating the dangers attendant upon shipwreck on this coast, we would state a fact which occurred not more than a year since, and is related in the United Service Journal. A party of English officers, from the garrison at Gibraltar, who were hunting in this neighbourhood, were attacked by the natives, and compelled to make a precipitate retreat, leaving one of their companions dead on the spot.

tributed at regular intervals along the shore, afforded some evidence of civilization. At eight in the morning we were abreast of Tarifa, an old Moorish town, lying near the shore. It is at present only remarkable for having originated that unhappy word *Tariff*, which occasions so much angry and fierce contention among our countrymen. It was at Tarifa that the first list of articles subject to duty was drawn up, and hence the word *Tariff* became applied to all subsequent lists of a similar nature.

The straits vary from nine to sixteen miles in breadth, and are usually estimated to be thirty miles in length, terminating in the Mediterranean at Gibraltar on the European, and at Ceuta on the African shore. At Gibraltar, the distance across appears to be about as far as from the Battery at New-York to Staten Island. The exact distance from Gibraltar to Cape Leona, the nearest point on the African shore, is eleven and a half miles, but the height of Gibraltar (1439 ft.), and of Ape's Hill, which is still higher, causes the passage between them to appear much narrower than it actually is. These two remarkable eminences were the Mons Calpe and Mons Abila of the ancients, and were formerly designated as the Pillars of Hercules. They were said to have been once united, until Hercules undertook to separate them, and thus made a communication between the Atlantic and the Mediterranean. This, like all the other improbable fictions invented by the most lettered nation of antiquity, to torture and disguise historical facts, was most probably founded on some tradition of a sudden disruption of the straits. It is moreover in accordance with the speculations of many geologists, who suppose the Mediterranean to have been at some former period an inland sea. These pillars of Hercules are attempted to be portrayed on that interesting specimen of silver coin, so universally known and respected, the Spanish dollar. Poor Spain is, however, deprived of one of these pillars, but still parades them ostentatiously on her arms, and keeps possession of

Ceuta with a tenacity which is truly absurd, when we take into view her limited resources and the utter worthlessness of the property.

The breeze increased as we advanced up the strait, and by 12 o'clock we stood far into the Bay of Gibraltar. This was done in order to furnish us with a leisurely view of the bay, the shipping, the town, the water-batteries, and the numerous tiers of guns which rise above each other to the summit of the sterile rock. Having gratified our curiosity, we altered our course and stood out of the bay under a cloud of canvass. An American frigate was noticed at anchor near Algesiras, on the opposite side of the bay. Our vessels of war usually lie at this place, in preference to being close in with Gibraltar, and of course under English jurisdiction. Every one recollects the general challenge which passed a few years ago between the officers of the garrison and those of our squadron, and hence the propriety of their coming in contact as seldom as possible. The old grudge is yet scarcely obliterated, although we have reason to believe that no hostile feelings exist at present between the naval officers of the respective nations.

Gibraltar has been so frequently described by various tourists, that what I could say would be a mere transcript from the writings of others. It is sufficient to observe that it is a huge prison, dignified by the name of a military post. It contains about 15,000 prisoners, of which 5000 wear a particular scarlet uniform, and the remainder are made up of traders and speculators, who are attracted hither by the prospect of earning a livelihood. It is held by the English for the avowed purpose of preventing it from being occupied by the French, and also to command the commerce of the Mediterranean. It is not without its value as a naval station, but the idea of its being the key of the Mediterranean is highly absurd. During the continental war, armed vessels passed freely up the straits, out of the reach of gunshot from Gibraltar; and gunboats would sally forth from

Algesiras, attack English vessels, and bring them into port in safety, unharmed by the guns of the garrison. How far Gibraltar may serve as a convenient *dépôt* for smuggling into Spain the manufactures of England, is a question I leave for others to determine; but some more powerful reason than that openly assigned must operate to induce the English government to retain, at an enormous expense, a military fortress in the bosom of a friendly power. The garrison usually consists of about 5000 men, and the expenses annually incurred for this post are said to exceed six millions of dollars.

An English traveller\* declares, that "the incalculable advantages which the possession of it (Ceuta) would confer upon us are so evident, that Ceuta, while held by the Spaniards, must ever be an eyesore to an Englishman."

Another English traveller, of some literary note,† who seems to entertain the rational idea that all peninsulas, islands, and the high seas, are, or should be, the property of England, not content with the display at Gibraltar of "the Herculean energies of the British nation," gravely proposes to take possession of Ceuta, and lay a tax upon all vessels entering or leaving the Mediterranean. The idea of a tax seems to form part of the very existence of an Englishman, and this proposition is highly characteristic. Not contented with taxing themselves, they wish to extend it over other nations. Travelling some years ago in Germany, with an American friend, the postillion was directed to notify us when we were about to approach the boundary-line of Hanover. After travelling a few miles, my friend exclaimed, "we are near the frontier;" and in fact, a large board over a house by the way-side, with the inscription, "Hier man muss Zoll bezahlen," or "Here toll must be paid," was the warning notice that we were about to enter the dominions of his Britannic majesty.

\* Turner.

† Galt.

## CHAPTER II.

Head-winds—Character of our Crew—Eastern Sailors best—Port Mahon—  
Winter-quarters—The Reputation of St. Luke as a Seaman vindicated—  
Sirocco—Sea-weed—Molluscous Animals—Grampus—Petrels—Volcanic  
Island.

AFTER leaving the straits, our course was along the romantic coast of Spain, in full view of the mountains of Malaga, with the cold, gray rock of Gibraltar in the west. The one reminded us of the valiant Spaniards who expelled, after many a bloody conflict, the chivalrous and lettered Moor, while the other, with the English flag floating over it, spoke volumes of the degenerate sons of the ancient Castilian. A believer in the mythology of the ancients would, in our situation, be tempted to imagine that the whole wrath of the king of the winds was directed upon our devoted heads. It is now about a week since we spoke an English ship off Cape de Gatt, twenty days from London. We were the same number of days from New-York, and every thing seemed to promise us the shortest passage ever made, when suddenly the wind changed to the east, and we have been ever since struggling against a strong gale. The Mediterranean in this place is not more than seventy miles wide, and although it is rather annoying to find, after a hard day's struggle through the waves, that we have made little or no progress, yet even this is preferable to the horrors of a dead calm. We derive, in fact, a rueful sort of satisfaction, as either coast appears in view, from the idea that we are alternately visiting the continents of Europe and Africa. Thus we are breakfasting in Spain, will dine in Africa, and shall return again to Spain to take our supper. With all the various headlands between Cape de



Gatt and Palos, and on the opposite coast, we are as familiar as with the banks of the Hudson, and have toiled backwards and forwards sufficiently often for all the purposes of a hydrographical survey. We have in fact already crossed and recrossed the Mediterranean more than twenty times. Our greatest amusement is in sailing faster than any thing we fall in with, and on the ocean, where a few ideas are sufficient to excite us, the pleasure we derive from this source is probably as great as that of the American lad whose horse passes every thing on the road.

Frequent opportunities have been afforded on this voyage to verify the cosmopolite character of an American crew. High wages and substantial fare naturally attract foreigners from every service, and the demand for sailors in our country induces commanders of vessels to take any thing in the shape of a man, without inquiring very minutely into their capabilities as seamen. Thus, in our own ship, we have not more than a dozen good sailors, while the "remainder biscuit" are arrant vagabonds, who have either never been to sea before, or else, from innate stupidity, can never learn to distinguish one rope from another. Our Babel-like crew can furnish representatives from almost every quarter of the globe. Thus we have Scotch colliers, Dutch fishermen, Spanish wreckers from the Florida shore, and English labourers, who have been kindly landed among us at the expense of their parish, and will in all probability be restored to their native land, via Constantinople. We can also muster Irishmen, Africans, Italians, Swedes, and Frenchmen, but among them all I am pleased to state that the Yankee interest prevails by an overwhelming majority.\*

\* On my return home I took passage in an American vessel, which formed a strong contrast with the above. The entire crew were Americans, and I never saw more thorough sailors nor better behaved men. Not an angry word, nor an unnecessary oath, was heard during the whole passage. It is but justice to state, that the crew had been shipped in Boston, and the men were all from New-England. Four of them were from the same place, Bristol, in Rhode Island.

The previous occupations of the lubberly part of the crew are quite as agreeably diversified as the nations they represent, and we accordingly have hodmen, tavern-keepers, doctors, schoolmasters, opera-singers, tailors, law-students, stocking-weavers, painters, pedlars, and even a scene-shifter from the Bowery Theatre. The histories of these poor wretches, however varied in their course, invariably terminate in the same way. According to their own declarations, none of them had ever "been the worse for liquor," yet nearly all of them had been brought on board in a beastly state of intoxication.

To while away the tedious hours, I have frequently amused myself with drawing from the old seamen the history of their checkered lives. I happened to ask one of these regular tars (a New-Yorker by-the-way), to what fortunate cause he was indebted for an enormous scar which disfigured his face and head. "I got it in the Burmese expedition against Rangoon, sir," was the prompt reply. It appeared that the poor fellow, happening to be adrift in India, became a sort of *Spanish volunteer* in the English service, and received a broken head for his share in that iniquitous expedition. If these poor wretches were capable of improving the many opportunities which are thrown in their way, they would be abundantly entertaining and even instructive; but in general they are as ignorant as asses upon every subject not immediately connected with their ship. I recollect asking an old seaman, who had made several voyages to Rio de Janeiro, to describe the place. "It is an elegant port, sir, to enter with any wind," replied the tar, "and has the best holding-ground in the world."—"But the city," I inquired, "how is it built, what is its appearance, and what the character and manners of the inhabitants?"—"O, sir, it lies in the bight of a bay; we get our water from a capital tank close to the quay, and the people are all the same as the bloody Portuguese." This was the whole amount of the information I could ex-

tract from him, and indeed comprised all his knowledge respecting one of the loveliest spots on the face of the globe.

The character, and I may add, the condition of the regular seamen has, however, much improved of late years. This happy change is owing to the fact, that captains and mates are becoming a better educated and more enlightened class. It is not more than fifty years since the commander of a merchantman was but too often an illiterate brute, who exercised his brief authority with savage barbarity, and even gloried in his ignorance. Navigation was then a great mystery, confined to but few, and the fortunate possessor imagined that an acquaintance with navigation was enough to enable him to undervalue and despise every other acquirement. Luckily, however, the race of "blow-hards" is now nearly extinct, and a superior class of well-educated and gentlemanly officers have taken their place. It is no longer considered a mark of seamanship to flog the men without cause, or to utter blasphemies upon every trivial occasion; and it is now understood, that a man may be a thorough seaman without being necessarily a blackguard. Such a revolution in the character of the officers has, of course, had a favourable influence upon that of the common sailor; and, although it would be absurd to expect that happy millennium, when the captain will issue his orders through the medium of a rose-scented billet, and the sailors perform their duties in white kid gloves, yet, in every thing that will add to their comfort, their happiness, and their moral worth, their condition will be much ameliorated.

Our perseverance against a head wind has at length brought us in sight of Cabrera, a most dreary and desolate-looking island. Our course during this day carried us within the vicinity of Majorca and Minorca, which latter place has become familiar to us in America as winter-quarters for the Mediterranean squadron. Port Mahon is well suited for this purpose, being easy of access, possessing

a healthy climate, abounding in good and cheap provisions, and having excellent water; but why our vessels should look for winter-quarters at all is a subject which puzzles our merchant-sailors. The cost of our squadron in this sea amounts to nearly one-half of the whole expense of the navy; and it scarcely admits of a doubt, that the same money might be much more profitably expended. Two or three sloops of war, or, what would be far more efficient, half a dozen schooners, would afford more protection to our commerce here than the whole of our navy. A line of battle-ship, and even frigates, have been known to remain at anchor six months at Port Mahon; and this is called winter-quarters in a sea which is navigated at all seasons in miserably constructed boats with the greatest security. Squalls, it is true, occasionally arise, and are sometimes very severe, although of short duration; but I should regret to believe that our seamen were so far upon a level with Spanish and Portuguese sailors as to require shelter from every extra puff of wind. I have navigated the Mediterranean at all seasons, and have made voyages of two and three hundred miles, in an open boat, in the heart of winter, without experiencing rougher weather than what would be laughed at by the crew of a Stonington smack or a Salem chebacco-boat on the coast of America. It is not known to which of our naval commanders we are indebted for the brilliant idea of winter-quarters; but most probably to one who considered St. Luke\* not only as apostolical, but also as nautical authority. But whatever may have been the state of navigation 1800 years ago, the concurrent testimony of every American voyager in these seas† goes to prove, that these winter stations are subversive of discipline, and often ruinous to the younger officers.

Representations have been made frequently, but hitherto without effect, to the proper department, by our public

\* Acts xxvii. 12.

† Naval Sketches.

functionaries in these seas, of the injurious effects, not only of these winter stations, but likewise of the whole system by which a vessel is kept three mortal years in one place.

A plan has been suggested by our able and intelligent consul at Smyrna, which, if carried into effect, would, no doubt, much increase the efficiency of our navy. His proposition is in substance, that when a vessel is put in commission, she should spend but a single year at one station, and proceed immediately to the second; after being on this station a year, she should proceed to a third, where she would remain until relieved. It will readily be imagined, that, by this arrangement, the officers would be made more thoroughly acquainted with their various duties, and our vessels would be constantly in active service.

Shortly after divine service, the highlands of Sardinia appeared in the distant horizon, and, although we have had to contend against an obstinate east wind, it is consolatory to feel that we are making some little progress. The mention of divine service leads me to notice that it has been regularly performed every Sunday since we left New-York; the episcopal form was that usually employed, and some one of the passengers read a sermon from Blair.

Few situations can be imagined more impressive than the performance of religious worship at sea; the busy hum and stir of the deck ceases, the men in their cleanest apparel are arranged in silence round the quarter-deck, and even the commands of the officers are delivered in a subdued tone. The total absence of all external objects to divert or distract the mind from the religious duties in which we are engaged, and the solitary voice of the speaker, rather accompanied than disturbed by the gurgling of the water against the ship, unite to give an air of deep solemnity to the scene. It is to be regretted, that no one sufficiently familiar with the habits and peculiar tastes of seamen has been induced to write a volume of sermons for their especial benefit; the very few which I have had an oppor-

tunity of examining are either (*sit venia verbo*) trite commonplaces about the uncertainty of life, or totally above the comprehension of the simple-minded seamen.

At eleven last evening I received a message from the officer of the deck, requesting me to come up immediately. I sprang from my cot, and made my way to the deck without perceiving that I had totally forgotten the necessary teguments of the outward man. I had scarcely put my head above the hatches, when I was saluted with such a blast of hot vapour, that I involuntarily started back, with feelings in which it would be difficult to say whether fright or surprise most predominated; it nearly deprived me of breath, and the sensation was as if one stood before the mouth of a glowing oven. I looked at the thermometer, which had stood all day at  $76^{\circ}$ , and found that it had risen  $15^{\circ}$ . This was the famous sirocco, which, passing over the blasted deserts of Africa, is charged with intense heat, producing distressing, and even fatal effects upon the human frame. The pulse was considerably accelerated, and many of the crew complained of an oppressive stricture about the head, accompanied with acute pain in the eyes. The first is, no doubt, owing to the great and sudden rise of temperature, while the pain in the eyes may be imputed to the minute portions of sand, which are carried hundreds of miles by the wind.\* The direction of this wind was from the south-east, and it lasted until two o'clock in the morning, when it gradually changed to the westward, accompanied by a corresponding fall in the thermometer until four o'clock, when the mercury stood at its original situation.

For some days pieces of sea-weed (*Sargassum vulgare*), loaded with their various tiny inhabitants have floated past

\* I saw afterward, at Constantinople, a vessel whose decks had been covered with a fine red sand during a sirocco which she had experienced in this latitude. So penetrating was this sand, that a large ball of spun yarn, opened some months afterward, was found to be filled with it to its very centre.

us. I had hitherto supposed it to be confined to the North Atlantic; but there could be no doubt of the species, for it was subjected to a minute examination.

The thousand ever-varying forms assumed by the mollusious inhabitants of the Mediterranean also furnished us with subjects for inquiry and reflection, and contributed very agreeably to relieve the tedium of a sea voyage. It was chiefly during calms that these delicate beings showed themselves near the surface. Two species, which were captured to-day, excited much interest from the symmetrical elegance of their forms and the beautiful disposition of their colours. One of them was about the size of an American dime, and resembled the brilliant eye of some animal. The centre was somewhat raised, and of a brownish colour; the margin was light blue, with numerous dark and blue points; the disk was slightly, but elegantly festooned, and from it proceeded sixty or seventy fibrillæ of unequal lengths; the longest three-quarters of an inch. The movements of this delicate creature were produced by alternate contractions and dilatations of its body, like those of the Medusæ on our coast. Bosc asserts, that the animals of this genus float always on the surface, and are, in fact, unable to submerge their bodies. This scarcely seems accurate; for they not only kept below the surface in the open sea, but when transferred to a vessel of water they were observed to descend towards the bottom. The species is *Porpita glandifera*.

Another little aquatic animal excited much curiosity by its singular and bizarre appearance. It resembled the preceding in size, but was rather elliptical than circular. It was of a brilliant blue, and its most striking peculiarity consisted in a thin transparent membrane, elevated transversely on the back of the animal, apparently serving the purpose of a sail for which it may possibly be intended. This curious appendage is analogous to a similar structure in the *Physalis*, or Portuguese man-of-war, and reminds one of

those picturesque little lateen-rigged vessels which are seen skimming in all directions along the Mediterranean. This species is the *Velella limbosa* of authors.

The tedium of a calm was also relieved by the appearance of several grampuses alongside of the ship of a white or rather yellowish-white colour. Of the existence of such remarkable varieties I was not previously aware, and suppose they must be of rare occurrence. The busy little *stormy petrels* (*Procellaria pelagica*), which hitherto accompanied us from the shores of America, have left us within the last two days. The sailors have many rare notions respecting this little oceanic wanderer; they entertain the rational belief that it lives perpetually on the waves, and hatches its eggs most conveniently under its wings. It is scarcely necessary to state, that it breeds, like other water-birds, on rocks in the vicinity of the sea, and the northern rocky coast of America furnishes its countless millions. Its popular name of petrel, the bird of St. Peter, is derived from the circumstance, that, when the water is smooth, by a slight and almost imperceptible motion of its wings, aided by its partially-webbed feet, it can walk over the surface of the water with great apparent ease. These bustling little birds have, by their presence, often enlivened the monotony of our lonely journey through the watery waste, and their departure seems like rending the last link of the chain which connected us with our native shores.

On the morning of the 16th of July the first officer reported, that during the whole of the preceding night he had observed at intervals a singular illumination of the heavens. We were then south of the island of Maretimo, and our course was south-easterly along the southern coast of Sicily, and the light proceeded from the eastern quarter of the horizon. At daybreak a large volume of smoke was seen which was at first supposed to proceed from the Malta steam-packet known to ply in these seas. This conjecture received new strength when one of the men aloft sung out

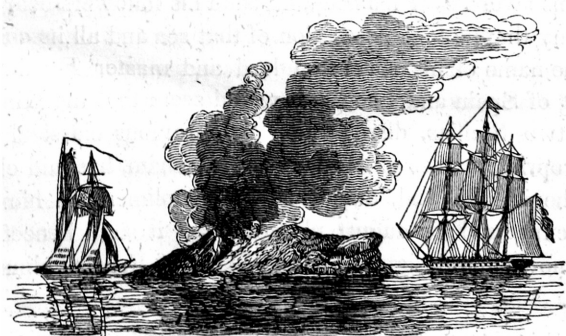


that he saw the chimney; as we approached, it became evident that the volume of smoke was too considerable to proceed from any or all the steam-vessels in the world united together, and, moreover, its vertical position was entirely different from that long horizontal stream of smoke which accompanies a steamboat in motion. Etna was then summoned to our aid, but a reference to the chart and to our position indicated that it could not proceed from that source. At meridian we were in latitude  $36^{\circ} 55'$ , and the column of smoke bore from us due north; we were then naturally led to the opinion that this smoke must proceed from some new volcanic source on the southern coast of Sicily, or, what was more probable from its apparent distance, that a subaqueous volcano was in operation between us and the land. The appearances presented during this day were of the most sublime nature; an immense column of dense white smoke appeared to issue from the ocean, and, although continually changing in form and volume, constantly preserved an elevation of one thousand feet. At times it would appear like a lofty pyramid, again it would curl out into immense wreaths, apparently covering miles of surface, like an enormous umbrella, and then it would shoot up and branch out in various directions, assuming somewhat the appearance of a grove of gigantic trees. These changes in the form of the column of smoke were no doubt owing to successive eruptions which observed no regular periods of intermission, but varied in intervals of from three to ten minutes. The base of the column near the water resembled a cone about twenty feet above the horizon, and this was the only part which remained unchanged. At intervals, which we judged to occupy the space of one hour, the eruptions, as manifested by the increased volume of smoke, became much more violent, and at such times, with a glass, I could distinctly perceive the ascent of a shower of stones, which was marked by numerous perpendicular black streaks appearing through the white smoke;

this appearance would last several minutes. During the afternoon the sky became overcast with a thick reddish haze, owing, no doubt, to the immense quantities of volcanic ashes and dust dispersed through the air. We afterward fell in with a brig whose decks had been literally covered with these ashes. During the night this white pillar of smoke continued to be distinctly visible, and sharp flashes, resembling lightning, were observed to issue from its bosom. As we proceeded on our course, the next morning it became gradually less distinct, and at three in the afternoon was no longer visible.

We have thus for more than thirty-six hours been spectators of one of the most grand and terrific operations of nature, a spectacle which rarely occurs, except after the lapse of centuries. I have already mentioned, that when the smoke bore from us due north, our latitude was  $36^{\circ} 55'$ , and, consequently, it could not be very far from the island of Sicily. The fact of our seeing the shower of stones so distinctly would seem to prove that we could not have been more than ten or twelve miles distant from the volcanic focus.

Our conjecture respecting this subaqueous volcano was afterward verified at Constantinople; and from a painting, which was made on the spot two days after we passed, we are enabled to present our readers with the annexed sketch.



Volcanic Island, near Sicily.

With regard to its exact situation, we could, of course, only make an approximation according to the most recent accounts; it lies in latitude  $37^{\circ} 7' 30''$  north, longitude  $12^{\circ} 44'$  east of Greenwich.

Upon referring to the published accounts it appears, that the first indication of smoke issuing from the water at this spot was on the 8th of July. Eight days after this we saw the large column of smoke, and its base, which appeared to undergo no change, was in all probability the island which on that day rose above the surface. That this was nearly the date of its emerging from the sea is confirmed by the captain of an Italian vessel, who speaks of having seen a large tract of volcanic land on that day at some height above the level of the sea. Eighteen days after this (August 3), a party of English officers from Malta succeeded in effecting a landing, and found the island to be a mile and a half in extent and one hundred and eighty feet high. The ceremony of christening the island, hoisting a flag, and taking possession was performed with all the formalities required on so important an occasion. In reading this account one is forcibly reminded of the conduct of the renowned Vasco Nunez de Balboa,\* the first European who saw the Pacific Ocean. This remarkable hero, clad in complete armour, and with a drawn sword in his hand, marched gravely into the sea up to his chin; then flourishing his sword over his head, he bade his followers bear testimony that he took possession of that sea and all its coasts, in the name of his sovereign lord and master Ferdinand, King of Spain and Leon. It would seem that the King of the two Sicilies, disregarding the previous classical and appropriate names of Hotham and Graham, has laid claim to the island; and, doubtless, in compliment to himself, has expressed his august pleasure that it shall henceforth be known and designated as the island of Ferdinandina.

\* Gomara, *Istoria de las Indias*.

The nomenclators have amused themselves prodigiously with christening this little island. In some papers, I observe, it is called *Corrao*, in others *Gustavo*, the name of the Sicilian brig from which the smoke was first seen. We have noticed above the names of *Hotham*, *Graham*, and *Ferdinandina*; to these we must add *Nertta*, as it figures in the German journals; and, lastly, Prevost has named it *Julia*, for the very substantial reason, that it is "an harmonious and Italian name." Seven names for a little island which has hardly been in existence as many months, and which may disappear within a shorter period!

Some discrepancies exist in the various accounts which have been published respecting the nature and composition of the materials composing the island, which may be fairly attributed to the various phases which it has undergone since it appeared above water. Capt. Senhouse states that it bore the appearance of two longitudinal hills, united by intermediate low lands, and sending up clouds of smoke and vapour. The specimens which he brought away were compact and heavy, consisting of volcanic rocks, and also of limestone; the whole surface of the island is described by him as dense and perfectly hard under the feet. Mr. Osborne, an English navy surgeon, visited the island seventeen days afterward, when it had attained a more considerable elevation. From his florid and verbose description we gather, that the island is even now washing away, and in time will gradually disappear. "From the nature of this island," he observes, "there being no bond of union in its heterogeneous particles, and from the precipitous falling down of its sides by the action of the sea, I am inclined to think that it has not the stability of permanence in its composition; the insatiable ocean will encroach upon its base, the winds of heaven will scatter the dusty surface to the four cardinal points of the compass, the rains will dissolve the saline bond of union, and the crumbling ruin will grad-

ually sink, and extend its base to a bank barely above the level of the sea.

"Its loss will not be deplored, for the screaming sea-bird instinctively wheels and directs its flight to a distant part of the ocean to avoid the dark and desolate spot, and even the inhabitants of the 'deep seem to avoid its unhallowed shores."

Mr. Osborne does not seem to be sailor enough to know that if the island crumbles down to the waters' edge, dangerous reefs and breakers will be formed, increasing the perils of these seas.

C. Prevost, who was sent to explore it by the French government, landed there on the 29th of September. It was then two thousand two hundred and seventy-three feet in circumference, and two hundred and thirty feet high, composed of pulverulent materials, which, however, appeared in layers. He considers it as a *conical* heap, arranged around a cavity which is *conical*, but in a different direction. The stratification near the opening is parallel with the sides of the crater, but externally it is reversed. Around the island there is a beach just above water, resulting from the falling down of the sides; it varies from fifteen to twenty feet in width, the highest part of the crater is two hundred and thirty feet, but on the southern side it is but forty. The temperature of the water in the crater was about 208° of Fahrenheit. Prevost gives no opinion as to the probable duration of this island, although he has established that it is not on the site of the old shoal laid down in some charts under the name of *Nerita*.\*

\* See Appendix B.

## CHAPTER III.

Ionian Sea—Candia, or Crete—Mount Ida—Epiminedes—Rip Van Winkle  
—American Frigate—Contest of Speed—Milo—Cyclades—Pilots—Their  
Accomplishments.

WE have been drifted by a succession of light airs, diversified by various annoying calms, across that part of the Mediterranean which is termed the Ionian Sea. This sea is about 400 miles in extent, and comprises the space included between Malta and Greece. Our passage has occupied ten days, and we have not had even the relief of seeing or speaking with a single vessel during all that period. It was therefore with unspeakable pleasure that we yesterday descried the peaks which denote the entrance into the Grecian Archipelago. Directly before us lie the islands of Candia and Cerigotto. The latter is a small barren rock, while Candia, or ancient Crete, is one of the largest islands in the Mediterranean, being 180 miles long, with an average breadth of 30 miles. It presents a rugged iron-bound coast, while in the interior, Psilority\* (the Ida of the ancients) arises proudly pre-eminent among its neighbouring peaks. Its lofty summit, which is 7500 feet high, was covered with clouds. Mount Ida figures in the heathen mythology as the birthplace of Jupiter, and must not be confounded with another Mount Ida on the coast of Asia, near to the supposed site of Troy. The ancient name of

\* From Hypsilorine, high point, in the same way that Psilibouroun is corrupted from Hypsilobounu, high mountain. Old Tournefort, who, in avoiding the affectation of classicality, perhaps runs into the opposite extreme, can find no other comparison for the really beautiful peak of Psilority than "a great ugly ass's back."

this island, Crete, may recall to mind one of the scenes of the missionary labours of St. Paul.

It has another claim to our attention, which the classical scholar will recognise, in having been the residence and, I believe, the birthplace, of Epiminedes, one of the celebrated seven wise men. This epic poet is recorded to have taken a short nap of a quarter of a century, and is doubtless the great prototype of the sleeper of the Hartz and of our illustrious countryman Rip Van Winkle.

The island of Candia was taken by the Romans sixty years before Christ, and was subsequently captured from the Venetians by the Turks, after a bloody contest which lasted twenty-four years. It is represented as being very fertile, and exports great quantities of a hard white soap, which, after being purified and disguised with various scents, figures on most of the toilets of our fair countrywomen. The island contains a mixed population of Greeks and Turks, who are stated to be, in a physical point of view, the finest race of men in the world. It is at present governed by a Turkish dignitary, who is said to hold his appointment under the Pacha of Egypt.

We spent the whole day and night in tacking between Candia and Cerigotto, contending against a strong headwind. On Cape Spada, the extreme north-west point of Candia, a large tumulus attracted our attention. It stood very conspicuously on a high point of land, and may have been erected to the memory of some ancient demigod or hero whose name or fame has not descended to us in history or song.

It was not until ten o'clock the next morning that we were enabled to weather Cerigotto, a miserable rock with a few houses; and we were just abreast of Cerigo, one of the Ionian islands, when a large frigate was discovered to windward of us, showing American colours. Upon displaying our flag in return, she hoisted her private signals, and they were not answered; she altered her course, and

bore down upon us with her men at quarters. We were soon boarded by her ; and she proved to be the *Constellation*, last from Smyrna. Our size and warlike appearance had led the officers to suppose that our vessel belonged to their squadron ; but as we did not answer their private signal, they were strongly inclined to suspect us of being some new pirate in these seas ; and hence their hostile demonstrations as they approached us. The boarding officer gave us the unpleasant information that plague and cholera were raging at Smyrna and Constantinople. In the former place hundreds were dying daily.

Our new acquaintances spoke highly of the sailing properties of their vessel—a subject upon which every thorough seaman loves to descant. From their statement we learned that the frigate had outsailed every thing in the Mediterranean, and her appearance seemed to warrant their assertions. Her commander was polite enough to accede to our wish of testing her speed with our vessel, and upon a signal we both made sail. The wind blew very fresh, and a heavy sea gave some advantage to our rival ; in addition to which, our main-topsail-yard was badly sprung, which made it a matter of some difficulty to carry even a reefed sail. Under these disadvantages we commenced our trial of speed, under the same sail, and close hauled upon a wind. A short half-hour proved our superiority. At the commencement we were lying abreast of her, and to leeward, but had already got her into our wake, and the distance between us was fast increasing.

This is not the only occasion upon which I have seen our national vessels beaten by our own merchantmen, and confirms the general impression, that in military naval architecture our progress has been slow, if not retrograde, since the year 1798. It is, we believe, conceded, that with regard to speed, none of our modern war vessels equal those built at that period, and are confessedly behind those now built in our merchant dock-yards. This will, in all proba-



bility, continue to be the case as long as the naval constructors are directed and overruled by those who must necessarily be unacquainted with the first principles of naval architecture, and their duties confined within the narrow limits assigned to the foreman of a yard. Let us hope that time and experience will correct this error, so fatal to our future maritime power.

*Wednesday.* At daylight this morning we were summoned from our beds to look at a cluster of black naked rocks, called the Ananas, which are the bare peaks of some submarine mountain. But objects of more engrossing interest soon attracted our attention. These were the lofty islands of Milo and Antimilo (pronounced Meelo); the first of that extensive group designated by the ancients as the *Cyclades*.

This name\* signifies a circie, as these islands lie in somewhat of a circular form around Delos; which, although a very inconsiderable island itself, has been considered from the remotest antiquity as a sacred spot. It was, doubtless, elevated by volcanic agency, and therefore invested by superstitious ignorance with a sacred character. Its name, from *Δηλος*, alluding to its sudden appearance, strengthens this idea. It was formerly celebrated as the birthplace of Apollo and Diana, and contained an altar of Apollo, once ranked among the seven wonders of the world. —But I am wandering out of my way to encroach upon the peculiar domain of Sabatier and Lempriere.

Owing to the strong head-winds, it was two in the afternoon before we could reach sufficiently near Milo to procure a pilot. We ran under Antimilo, a brown barren mountain 1500 feet high, upon which, at the distance of a mile, we could detect no vestige of vegetation; although we were afterward told that it abounds with wild goats,

\* *Circa Delum in orbem sitæ (unde et nomen traxere) Cyclades.*—Plin. Nat. Hist. lib. iv.

whose flesh is highly prized for its exquisite flavour. The channel between this island and Milo is about six miles wide. At three o'clock, a part of the town and harbour of Milo came into view. The chief town was formerly situated near the water, but its unhealthiness caused it to be abandoned, and the inhabitants clambered up to the top of a hill in the vicinity. The new town, which is composed entirely of white houses, has a very singular appearance when seen from the ship. The houses are clustered round the sides and cover the summit of a peak a thousand feet high, and resemble more in appearance a rookery or pigeon-house than the residence of human beings.



View of Milo and Antimilo.

The island of Milo, however much it may have been celebrated in ancient times, is now a desolate, unhealthy spot, affording a scanty support to its wretched inhabitants. According to Pliny, it formerly furnished the best sulphur in the world, and millstones of so excellent a quality as to have given the name to the island which it still bears. The sulphur has long since been exhausted by the demand from the north, but millstones are an article of export to the present day. It is now principally celebrated for its pilots, which are esteemed the best in the Archipelago. Shortly after firing a gun and hoisting a flag, a small sail-boat was seen making its way out of the harbour towards us. While lying-to for this boat, we had an opportunity of witnessing its manœuvres; and as we had rather elevated ideas of the

cleverness of the Greek islanders in this particular, it was with surprise that we found them to be unseamanlike and lubberly. There were three persons in the boat, and when, after much scolding, and pushing, and rowing, they were fairly alongside, two of them jumped on board, and in tolerable English offered their services as pilots; each produced large tin boxes filled with certificates from the various ships in which they had exercised their craft, and it appeared from these documents that they had at different times been on board the ships of every naval power in the world. The eldest was a sallow-faced, beetle-browed man, of few words and quiet deportment. His companion was a hale, handsome, black-eyed fellow of about thirty, decorated with a pair of jetty mustachios, which he twirled about with infinite complacency, while answering the interrogatories of the captain. He was, according to his own story, a man of various accomplishments, speaking no less than six languages, that is to say, English, French, Italian, Turkish, Illyric, and Greek. "I speks sis lankishes, and all so good as Ingleesh," was the phrase in which he conveyed this information.

Desirous of airing my college Greek upon this descendant of Leonidas, I gravely addressed him in a set speech, of the accuracy of which I could have no doubt, as I had selected it from a Romaic vocabulary. The man stared, and upon repeating my phrase, he asked me what language I was speaking. Like the Englishman who puzzled Scaliger by talking Latin with a cockney accent, I felt rather annoyed by the question; and taking the vocabulary from my pocket, asked him if he knew that language. He assured me that it was good Greek, but that (begging my pardon) I had spoken it as if it had been English. I was perfectly aware that there were many important differences in grammatical structure between the ancient and modern Greek, but I was now for the first time to learn, that the pronunciation taught in all our colleges was so decidedly

burlesque and *outré*, as to excite laughter whenever it was heard in Greece.

The next morning we found ourselves near Hydra (pron. Heedra), with the islands of Siphanto and Serpho on our right. Hydra is a long, elevated, and rocky isle, twelve miles long by three in breadth, separated by a passage three or four miles broad from the mainland. It was called by the ancients Aristera (the best), most probably in derision, *lucus a non lucendo*, for there is not a single blade of grain produced upon the island. The modern name, Hydra, appears to have been given upon the same principle, for there is not one spring upon the island; and they depend upon rain and supplies from the mainland for all the water required for their consumption. The ancient Greeks seem to have been much addicted to that sort of wit which consists in giving a name to any particular place as opposite as possible to its real character. Besides the example cited above, we might adduce the gloomy Euxine, lashed by perpetual storms, and its shores peopled with cruel savages, which they called Euxinos, or the very hospitable. A village near Constantinople, which was in the olden time exceedingly insalubrious, retains the name of Therapeia, or healthy place, to this day. In the same spirit the epithet of Eumenides, or the benevolent goddesses, was given to the fabled Furies of hell.\*

In the course of the day we weathered the northern point of the island, and its pretty white town was seen about midway down the sound. This island, previous to the Greek revolution, was one of the most flourishing in the Archipelago. Its inhabitants were all ship-owners or sailors, and the whole carrying trade among the islands was in their hands. On account of their activity and general intelligence they were much favoured by the Turks,

\* For the benefit of that ingenious but ill-used class of wits known as punsters, we annex a specimen of the earliest pun on record. Ἐσα καὶ ἔαμος ἄμμος, ἔσα ἄλλος ἄδηλος καὶ ἔωμη ῥωμη!

and enjoyed peculiar privileges. Their annual taxes to the Ottoman Porte were collected by themselves; they appointed their own governor and other officers; and no Turk was suffered to reside on the island. In an evil hour for their prosperity they listened to the insidious councils of Russia, threw off their allegiance to the Turkish government, and by their daring deeds excited the emulation of their countrymen.

We are not disposed to believe with many that robbery and piracy, or what is softened into the name of commercial cupidity, was the chief exciting cause of the Greek revolution. We can readily credit the assertions of writers that a feeling of degradation and arbitrary acts of oppression on the part of their masters, which were exaggerated by their dissolute priesthood, and carefully turned to the production and increase of discontent by the myrmidons of a great northern power, led them to shake off the Turkish yoke. Our sympathy for a nation struggling for freedom should not blind us to their gross moral defects, nor lead us to do injustice to their opponents. With the single exception of the attachment of the Greeks to letters, the united voice of antiquity gives a very unfavourable idea, not only of their moral character, but of their principles of government. In the dark ages, according to Emerson, they abandoned a name which they felt they had dishonoured, and called themselves Romans; hence the name Romania, and of Roum and Roumelie, applied by the Turks to the Greeks and their country. But even this name it would seem that they contrived to render equally despicable, for the ambassador of a German prince had the boldness to tell the Emperor Nicephoras Phocas "that the most expressive term of contempt which the nations of western Europe could inflict upon their enemies was to call them *Romans*! a name expressive of all that was mean, base, cowardly, avaricious, lying, and contemptible."

Notwithstanding all that has been said or sung about the

glorious Greeks, and their glorious revolution, it is very doubtful whether they have been gainers by their bloody struggle. Divided among themselves, as such an immoral and unprincipled people\* always must be, they have only changed their masters, and instead of being ruled by the Turks alone, they are now governed by the triple-headed Cerberus of the Holy Alliance. Their flourishing ports have been ruined ; their towns destroyed, not so much by the common enemy as by their own unprincipled factions ; their starving population has been driven to adopt the congenial pursuits of piracy ; and the pecuniary impositions of their new government far exceed those of their former masters. The whole amount of taxes previous to the revolution imposed upon the islands of the Archipelago amounted, according to Turner's statement, to \$30,000, which was divided among a population of 120,000. The island of Tino under the Turkish rule paid an annual poll-tax of \$2000, collected by a vaivode and two secretaries. They were then subjected to the payment of no duties whatever ; now, officers personally obnoxious to them are appointed by Capo D'Istrias to collect the same poll-tax, and they are besides loaded with duties amounting annually to \$5000. Our pilots assure us that their island of Milo was never so prosperous and happy as when it was ruled by the Turks ; and they actually appear to sigh for the former golden days of its commercial prosperity.

\* Their supposed unfitness for self-government renders it necessary to provide them with foreign rulers and a new king ; for Greece forms a regular item in the price currents of the royal markets of Europe.

## CHAPTER IV.

Poros—Greek Frigate Hellas—Egina—Cape Colonna—Zea—Winds—Port Raphti—Marathon—Andros—Roman and Greek Catholics—D'Oro Passage—Negropont—Etymology—Imaginary Dangers—Scio—Massacre.

WE stood into the Bay of Egina, passing the island of Poros, which, like Hydra, is situated at a short distance from the mainland. It was at Poros that Demosthenes took poison and died. In its harbour we saw a brig of war at anchor, and a lofty frigate, which we had no difficulty in recognising as the Hellas. While admiring the beauty of her form, and the symmetrical elegance of her masts, which seemed to pierce the clouds above her, we could not anticipate that a few brief days would terminate her career. Still less could we suppose that this last strong bulwark against the foreign foe would be destroyed by Grecian hands.\*

We next passed the island of Egina, and all eyes and glasses were directed towards the spot where Athens

\* This "untoward event"—the modern polite periphrasis for murder and rapine—occurred on the 13th of August, and originated in a scheme to convocate a National Assembly, in opposition to Capo D'Istrias. This man, finding that his opponents kept him in check by retaining possession of the fleet, called in the aid of his protector, the Russian Admiral Ricord. An attack was made upon two Greek corvettes by the Russians. One blew up, and the other surrendered. Not satisfied with this atrocious act, which Ricord coolly terms "the preservation of order and tranquillity," he made arrangements to seize the frigate Hellas and the corvette Hydra. These were commanded by that brave old man Miaulis, who signified to the Russian, that upon the first attempt to wrest that vessel from his command, as he could not successfully oppose the whole fleet, he should blow them into the air. Ricord persisted, and both vessels were destroyed. Ricord may possibly be considered as an honourable man, but impartial history will decide the amount of honour due to him for his share in this transaction.

faintly appeared, on the opposite side of the bay. We could discern the Acropolis, Salamis, the Pireus, and the range of Mount Hymettus, when the shades of evening put an end to our anxious observations. As the wind freshened during the night, we stood out of the bay, and were aroused at daylight the next morning to see the celebrated promontory of Sunium, now Cape Colonna, upon which are still visible the remains of a once glorious temple of Minerva. To pass this cape in former days was a feat equivalent to "doubling the Horn" in modern times; and this splendid temple and its rich offerings attested the fears of the ancient navigators. It is now, according to Byron, chiefly the resort of painters and pirates. As the rays of the rising sun glittered upon the few majestic columns which are still standing in a solitary waste, we were led to a train of reflection which carried us back to the poetic days of Greece. The current of our ideas was suddenly diverted into another channel, and all our classical musings vanished, upon inquiring the name of an adjacent isle, which formed a more conspicuous feature in the landscape than the temple-crowned promontory. Its very classical and euphonous epithet was Gaithronissi, or Jackass Island.

The whole of this day was consumed in struggling through the channel between Zea and Macronissi, or Long Island. This channel is seven miles wide, and has no hidden dangers, except a rock on the Zea side, which is not laid down in any chart.

Zea is an elevated and apparently fertile island, and the summits of its hills are covered with numerous windmills, which produce a pretty effect; and the harbour of the principal town is so closed in by rocks that its position can with difficulty be detected. The island is eleven miles in length, and seven broad, and has had the fortune, at various times, to receive numerous names. According to Pliny,\* it was

\* Hist. Nat. lib. iv.



originally called Cauros, and afterward Antandros; according to Lysimachus, it was called Lassia; and by others, Nonagria, Hydrussia, and Epagris. The town of Zea is perched near the summit of one of the highest ridges of the island, and although it is said to consist of 500 dirty huts, has a very pretty appearance from the water below. It is probable that the picturesque situation of the town, suspended apparently midway in the air, induced Lord Byron\* to leave his frigate, and request to be set ashore upon this rocky isle.

It may be remarked that the wind among these islands is of a very variable character, veering suddenly round to every point of the compass, and with every variety from a flat calm to a young hurricane. An English sloop of war, with which we are now in company, illustrates the variable character of the winds in an eminent degree. At one time we are several miles ahead of her, and then, by a sudden shift of wind, our relative positions are reversed. In the course of the day, we were anxious to get a peep at a celebrated statue, which the chart states to be 298 feet high. This would be a great marvel if true, and far exceeding the renowned but fabulous Colossus of Rhodes. The explanation is this. At Port Raphti, or Tailor's Port, the ancient Panormus, is a harbour which is said to be the most commodious and beautiful in the Grecian seas. In the centre of this harbour is a small island 298 feet high, and upon its summit is a mutilated statue, in a sitting posture, 12 feet high. To this statue the modern Greeks have given the unpoetical name of "The Tailor," from *Καπτεής*.

Three leagues beyond are the bay and plain of Marathon; where our classical authorities inform us that Miltiades vanquished the Persians twenty-three centuries ago. From the contemplation of these interesting scenes we were however recalled to our own situation at the mouth of the

\* Moore's Byron.

straits of Silota, or what is generally better known as the D'Oro Passage.

The wind blew a gale down the straits, and the lateness of the hour induced us to run under the island of Andros, and wait for daylight. Here we lay-to, with Jura on our right, in smooth water, at the distance of two miles from the shore. Jura is apparently a barren rock, and was formerly, according to Martial, the Botany Bay of Rome. Andros, although very elevated, is a fruitful island, twenty-one miles in length, and contains a population of 15,000 souls, distributed in fifty villages and hamlets; its chief production is silk, of which it sends 3000lbs., and an immense quantity of lemons, to Constantinople. This island, as well as its neighbour Tino, furnishes nearly all the servant-maids and cooks for Constantinople and Smyrna. Tino has 30,000 inhabitants, and is the best cultivated of the Cyclades, although nearly one-half of its population are said to be employed at sea. In all these islands the inhabitants are divided into two great religious parties, viz. Roman and Greek Catholics. These hate each other most cordially, and regard each other with even more horror than they view the Turk. "I am no Greek," said one of the pilots to me.—"And pray, what may you be then?" I inquired. "Why, a Catholic to be sure," was the superb reply;—and this is the common distinction adopted among themselves. It was in vain that I attempted to show him the absurdity of such a distinction; nothing could persuade him that a Catholic could be a Greek, although a lineal descendant of Epaminondas, and born within the walls of Athens. During the revolution, the Roman Catholic Greeks were suspected of favouring the Turks, and they were accordingly fined, persecuted, and in many instances, if my information be correct, were put to death by their own countrymen the Greek Catholics. Thus, in addition to the horrors of a foreign war, they were cursed by the demon of civil discord; and the cruelties they exercised upon each other are

said to have far exceeded the injuries inflicted by the common foe.

A magnificent temple, dedicated to Neptune, formerly existed on the island of Tino, but a solitary column is all that is left to attest its ancient grandeur. The island of Andros, under the shelter of which we are now lying, presents numerous vestiges of cultivation in the shape of low stone or mud walls, dividing the several plantations, or farms, from each other; but we have not been fortunate enough to get a glimpse of even a single human habitation. Like all the other islands we have yet seen, it is a high brown rock utterly destitute of trees.

Impatient of the delay, it was determined at all hazards to attempt the D'Oro Passage, although our pilots warned us against the consequences. They represented that the current with the present wind ran at least four knots the hour, that no ship had ever yet got through under such circumstances, and finally, that it would be necessary to approach the iron-bound coast on either side so near that a misstay would inevitably drive us ashore, with the loss of vessel and lives. In short, so much was said against making the attempt, that, like most people under similar circumstances, we determined to try our fortune, and trusted to the well-known qualities of our ship to carry us through this difficult pass.

Accordingly, at midnight we made sail along the coast of Andros, and at four in the morning we entered the straits, with the wind dead ahead, and blowing so fiercely as to reduce us to close-reefed topsails. Our English friend of yesterday was contending most manfully against the gale several miles ahead. The passage is between six and seven miles wide, and its whole length does not exceed nine miles; and yet such was the strength of the wind and current against us, that it required every attention on the part of the officers to gain a single inch to windward. As the current runs with the least velocity near the shores, we were

obliged to keep close in; and every time we tacked ship it seemed as if we could have leaped upon the rocks, or into the breakers which were foaming and roaring among them. In all my nautical experience, which has not been inconsiderable, I never had (to use a familiar expression) my heart in my mouth so often as on this occasion. We tacked eighteen times, and from a calculation it appeared that we must have traversed a distance of 120 miles in this little passage, the greatest part of the time flying at the rate of ten and a half miles the hour. On one of the rocky projections from the coast of Andros, a solitary round tower was observed, the once proud symbol of Venetian sway. It is now the abode of pirates, who are said to be numerous in these straits; and a more suitable residence for sea-robbers cannot well be imagined; it is certainly in keeping with the savage character of the surrounding scene. The northern side of this strait is formed by Negropont, the ancient Eubœa. Although within the limits of Greece, it contains about 5000 Turkish inhabitants. Its present name, which is legitimately derived from its ancient one, would form a curious article in the chapter of etymologies. Every one knows the change from Constantinople to Stamboul, through *εἰς την πάλιν*, and from Cos to Stanco, through *εἰς την κοῦ*; but we suspect the derivation of Negropont from Eubœa is not so familiar to our readers. Its first change from Eubœa was Euripus, or as it is pronounced by the modern Greeks Evripus, whence comes *εἰς την Εὐρίπου*, by contraction *Νεῦριπο*, corrupted into *Νεγγρίπο*, which has been finally Italianized into Negropont! Let no one after this despair of tracing any etymology, however obscure, for even the humorous derivation of Mango from Jeremiah King, as detailed in Salmagundi, when compared with the example cited above, becomes not only probable, but almost divested of its absurdity.—But we are still in the D'Oro Passage.

At two o'clock, we finally succeeded in weathering, at the distance of 500 yards, a horrible-looking cape (Guardia),

nearly covered with foam, which forms one of the northern limits of the straits. For a long time it was doubtful whether we should be able to weather it; and during this state of suspense it might truly be said that "the boldest held his breath for a time."

As we cleared the straits, we saw our English consort several miles to leeward, and with every prospect of passing the night in this dismal passage. He had split his fore and mainsail, but quickly replaced them by others, and his stern and dogged obstinacy, under such adverse circumstances, excited our warmest admiration and sympathy.\*

We are now fairly launched upon the "blue Egean," and the wind, as if in recompense for our perseverance, has altered much in our favour. Confined, as we have recently been, between rocky islands, it is a relief to find ourselves in something which bears the semblance of an open sea. As we plunged and dived through the long Atlantic-looking waves of the Egean, we had nothing in sight except the solitary Caloyero, or Monk Rock, and far in the horizon we could see faint traces of what our pilots affirmed to be the islands of Ipsara and Scio. Our course lay between the two,

\* In this passage, according to Purdie's sailing directions, two rocks are stated to exist in "about 38°, and called the Old Men." They are said to lie in the middle of the channel, and would have added greatly to our anxiety, had we been aware that such rocks were supposed to lie in our way. Fortunately, in this case, we had not the sailing directions on board, and it is scarcely necessary to state that no such rocks are in existence. We mention this with no wish to detract from the otherwise acknowledged merits of Purdie's book, but simply from the same motive that would induce one to notify travellers that a particular bridge or ford which had been reported as dangerous was no longer so, and could be passed with impunity. While upon this subject we are reminded of another "danger," which is laid down in Lowrie's chart, under the name of the Fox Rock, off the southern coast of Sardinia. We have passed four or five leagues to the southward of the Toro Rock, with a fine day and clear horizon, over the very spot upon which it is placed in the chart, without being able to discover a trace of it. Its existence is very generally discredited among the navigators of those seas.

but at dusk the wind changed so much that this was impracticable, and after a night spent in beating to windward, we found ourselves to the northward of them in the morning.

Scio\* is replete with historic interest. Independent of having been the nursery of the Homeric bards, whose rhapsodies have come down to us under the name of Homer, Scio lays claim to a melancholy notoriety in the pages of ancient and modern story. Its wealth and its refinement offered too tempting an inducement to the pirates and vagabonds of the heroic ages, and its insular situation afforded but a feeble protection. Under Cambyeses, the Phenicians and Persians attacked and took possession of the island,† and put to death the whole population. In the year 1770, the strait between this island and the main was the scene of a naval combat between the Turks and Russians, in which the Turkish fleet was almost totally destroyed. Count Orloff was the nominal commander of the Russian squadron, but the efficient head was an English officer named Elphinstone. The Turks on that fatal day lost nine line-of-battle ships, three frigates, three sloops of war, and nine thousand men. The Russians only lost seven hundred and thirty men.

This island was formerly considered one of the richest in the Archipelago. It contained 100,000 inhabitants, distributed in about twenty villages, and they were distinguished above all their countrymen for their intelligence, their cultivation, and their acquaintance with all the arts which adorn life. Their urbane and peaceful demeanour so endeared them to their Turkish masters that they were favoured with many privileges not granted to other islands. They were allowed to elect their own municipal officers and advocates chosen from among themselves. The public acts of the latter were received as evidence in any of the courts of justice in the Turkish empire. They were permitted to have bells in their churches, and were even

\* Pronounced Sheeo.

† Charnock, i. 87.

allowed to wear that enviable mark of distinction the white turban. In recompense for such important concessions, the Sciots were bound to pay the most scrupulous attention to the cultivation of the mastic, which was so abundant here, that it was and still is known by the Turks under the name of Sahkees Adassi, or Mastic Island. This article is a resin, which exudes from the *pistacia lentiscus*, of which there are four varieties on the island. It is used occasionally in medicine, and likewise in the arts. It is very soluble in spirits of wine, and makes a clear and transparent varnish. It is also used to give an agreeable flavour to their wines, and to rakee, a pleasant spirit from the grape, which is nowhere made in greater perfection than at Scio. The greatest consumption of mastic is, however, among the Turkish, Greek, and Armenian ladies, who keep it almost continually in their mouths, in order to sweeten the breath. The plant is a low evergreen shrub, and requires much care in its cultivation. The use of this resin is of great antiquity, having been in great request among the women of Persia. The spikes of the seed-pods are exposed for sale at Constantinople for toothpicks, as they were at Rome in the days of Martial. For the court of Constantinople alone sixty thousand pounds were annually required, and this amount the Sciots were bound to furnish; and if the crop failed, in lieu of it they were taxed in the sum of forty thousand dollars. Guards were stationed day and night among the mastic groves, and an agha, or farmer-general, was appointed to receive the mastic from the peasants. The annual crop was about one hundred and twenty thousand pounds, and the surplus over the required amount was purchased by the agha at the rate of half a dollar per pound. Under these regulations and burthens the island continued to prosper, and its inhabitants were the wealthiest in the Archipelago. At the commencement of the Greek revolution, Scio remained quiet; but not trusting too much

to appearances, the Turks required from them hostages for their good behaviour.

In an evil hour for Scio, a party of Greeks from Samos, whose inhabitants, according to an English authority, are the most unprincipled miscreants in existence, landed upon the island. Joined by a number of the Sciots, they commenced an attack upon the Turkish garrison. After some resistance they surrendered, and were immediately put to death in cold blood, together with every Turkish man, woman, and child on the island. Such savage cruelty did not long go unpunished. The Turks landed on the island, put every male they could find to death, and reduced the women and children to slavery.\* Such was the famous massacre, or rather massacres, of Scio, which reduced a rich and flourishing isle to a frightful desert. The story is a horrible one, and needed not the embellishments with which certain romance writers about Greece have been pleased to decorate it. For instance, it has been stated that, after the first bloody massacre, the capudan pacha hung up on his yard-arms all his Greek hostages, comprising the most venerable and respected of the islanders. Upon referring to the Smyrna papers of 1830, the reader will find, by the testimony of Europeans then in the fleet, that the whole story is a gratuitous embellishment, a superogatory horror.

\* We are pleased to be enabled to state that the sultan has since ordered the property of the Greeks on this island to be restored to them, and that the former inhabitants are fast returning to their beloved homes. Mon. Ott. January 21.



## CHAPTER V.

Mytilene—Aristotle—Lemnos—Byron—Tenedos, and Coast of Troy—  
Visit to the Agha of Tenedos—English Consul.

**LIGHT** breezes are fanning us gently towards Mytilene, with Kara-boornoo, or Black Cape, on our right, a most conspicuous landmark. As this is the first land we have seen of the continent of Asia, it is hailed with great pleasure as an earnest of the termination of our voyage. Here Sappho flourished, and here also probably dwelt her beloved Alceus. Here, too, lived Zerpander, and perhaps a host of other worthies, whose names may be disinterred from the pages of Lempriere; but to our mind its proudest claim to distinction is that, more than two thousand years ago, a school was established here by Aristotle, the influence of whose doctrines upon the human mind has continued, through twenty-three centuries, to the present day.

*Monday.*—We find ourselves under Lemnos, now called Stalimene, celebrated as the spot which received Vulcan when he was so unceremoniously kicked out of the good society of the *Dii majorum gentium*. This island, and its connexion with the accident of Vulcan, remind us of an anecdote of Byron, which we hold from a gentleman in whose presence it occurred, and which illustrates, in a striking degree, how continually his thoughts dwelt upon the trifling deformity in one of his feet. The person alluded to mentioned, that in America there was a current report that his lordship had gone to Greece, and had selected Lemnos for his residence. "It was no doubt intended as a sneer at my misfortune," replied Byron, and immediately changed the conversation.

Lemnos is a high barren island, and from its configu-

ration and apparent structure, there is no doubt of volcanic origin. It is from this circumstance that it has been assigned, from the earliest ages, as the residence of Vulcan and his Cyclopean assistants. It is now chiefly celebrated for the number of hares and rabbits which annually attract thither numerous European sportsmen from the Dardanelles.

At noon we stood in towards the mainland, which we eagerly examined, as the celebrated Troad, or plains of Troy. This terminated at the south in a bold cape, Baba-boornoo, with its white fortifications at some distance above the water, and still farther in the south were the blue summits of Mytilene. As we neared the shore, and objects became more distinct, we saw nothing but a low barren plain, bounded in the rear by an insignificant hill, or rather low knoll, which was pointed out as the celebrated Ida. At various distances along this plain were scattered a few mounds of earth, resembling our western tumuli. The numerous mounds of a similar size, which we afterward saw along the coast of the sea of Marmora, were in themselves enough to stagger the faith of the most credulous as to any particular authenticity to be attached to those on the plains of Troy. Nor are they even peculiar to this region; for, as we have already seen, they exist in Candia. They are found in Russia and Tartary, in Brittany, Ireland, and over the United States.

Lucas, a traveller who wrote about one hundred and twenty years ago, describes them as so numerous about Karahissar in Karamania, that he enumerated himself twenty thousand in that district alone.

These mounds are, doubtless, of great antiquity, although we are not disposed to consider them as an evidence of the necessity of a large population in order to contribute towards their erection. The very materials employed, being of the simplest kind, indicate a people not far advanced in the arts, and this is in favour of their antiquity, even if we were not aware of the fact, that no monument is so durable,

none so little liable to be affected by exposure to the elements as a simple mound of earth alone. They resemble precisely those found in our western States, and, like them, have given risen to many ingenious, and to not a few absurd, conjectures. The most generally-received opinion is, that these mounds are funereal monuments, and their size has led to the inference, that the people by whom they were erected must have been more numerous than is generally supposed, and that the individuals to whom they were erected were famous personages of antiquity.

The history of the actual erection of one of these mounds about four hundred years ago may throw some light upon the subject, and, at the same time, will serve to explain some of the difficulties which have accompanied the various theories broached about their construction. Such a history may be found in the "Voyage de Constantinople en Pologne" of Boscowitch. He mentions having seen a very large one, called Moorat-tepaysi or the Mountain of Amurad. This mound was, upon positive testimony, constructed by the army of Amurad II., when he was marching to fight the Prince of Servia. It was, doubtless, intended partly to give occupation to his army and keep them out of mischief, partly to inflame their enthusiasm, and partly to commemorate the fact that his army had encamped on this spot.

Towards dusk we dropped anchor between Tenedos and the coast of Troy, the wind and the current from the Dardanelles being against us. Upon the authority of Virgil,

"Est in conspectu Tenedos notissima fama  
Insula, &c.—statio malè fida carinis."

If the poet, who probably was never on salt water in his life, meant that it was dangerous on account of the anchorage, he is contradicted by that most authentic record our log-book, which purports, that we anchored in thirteen fathoms, with a soft oozy bottom. It is probable that the vessels of that day were nothing more than small open

boats such as are still to be seen navigating these seas. Upon this supposition they must necessarily have hugged close in with the shore, or, what is more probable, have been drawn up on the land. In this case the poet's reputation for accuracy may be saved, although, if he were now alive, he would probably smile at the idea of criticising his poem by the standard of a hydrographical survey.

Tired with having been "cabined, cribbed, confined," for so long a period on board ship, and anxious to set our foot on solid ground, we left the ship as soon as the anchor was dropped, and, as the distance was short, were soon set on shore at the town of Tenedos. It was already dark as we entered the little harbour, which was overshadowed on its northern side by strong fortifications, whose extreme whiteness enabled us to trace their extent. The harbour was nearly filled with small craft of all possible varieties of construction, and it was with some difficulty that we at last succeeded in making our way to the landing-place. Here we were met by a Turkish officer of police, who, after civilly inquiring our business, and learning that we were anxious to procure some "creature comforts" in the shape of meat, wine, &c., offered to conduct us to the house of the English consul. We ascended a short slope which brought us into the centre of the town. The houses appeared to be low mud and wooden buildings covered with flat roofs. On our way our guide asked us if we would not be desirous of paying our respects to the agha, or governor of the island, to which, as a lion of any kind had been a rarity to us for some time, we gladly assented. Having despatched a messenger to notify the English consul of our august arrival, we followed our guide to a house which rose proudly above its neighbours in all the dignity of two stories. After groping our way through the lower story over a stone pavement, and climbing a rickety staircase, we were ushered, with all due formalities, into the presence of the agha. The room in which he re-

ceived us was about twelve feet square, with windows on three sides, the floors covered with matting, the walls coarsely plastered, and the ceiling formed of unpainted boards. Around three sides of the room was a low broad platform, about six inches above the floor, covered with large cushions, and similar ones leaning against the wall. This is the celebrated divan which is so frequently alluded to in all oriental descriptions. It is at any rate a convenient article of furniture, far surpassing Goldsmith's

"Bed by night, and chest of drawers by day,"

for it serves in the fourfold capacity of chair, sofa, table, and bed. They are usually stuffed with wool and covered with calico; the more common sort are simply stuffed with straw. Almost blinded and stifled with tobacco-smoke, we made our way to one of the corners of the divan, where we were presented to the agha. Having been previously tutored by our interpreter, we were on our guard not to commit the oriental incivility of taking off our hats, but following the motions of the agha, placed our hands on our breasts, and, with a gentle inclination of the body, expressed in sonorous English our happiness at having made his acquaintance. After inquiries as to the nature and length of our voyage, and our proposed destination, we were presented with coffee by the attendants in small cups hardly containing more than a moderate-sized thimbleful, and enclosed in thin brass cup-stands; small as it was, one-half consisted of grounds, and some of our party afterward declared that no earthly consideration would ever induce them again to taste another cup of nasty, burnt, Turkish coffee. Long amber-headed pipes filled with tobacco, and properly ignited, were presented to each. Some of the more squeamish objected to smoking from pipes which, the moment before, had been in the mouths of the servants, but understanding that amber could not communicate contagion, we

were all soon puffing away as lustily as our Turkish neighbours. The narghilay, or water-pipe, with its long flexible tube was, however, a puzzler to all of us; and our vain attempts to obtain smoke, or, as we designated it, "to get up a head of steam," excited the risibility of our new acquaintances. The room was filled with the chief dignitaries of the island: among them the bey of the island, the military commander of the garrison, an emir distinguished by his green turban, and the chief of the custom-house; the remainder were officers of the garrison. Among the servants we observed several negroes, distinguished by three large scars in each cheek, and dressed in long flowing robes of scarlet cloth. We learned that they were from Dongola and Sennaar. As our communications could not be very copious, where one interpreter acted for six individuals, we amused ourselves by examining each other's dresses, decorations, &c., which was done on both sides with the greatest freedom. A watch belonging to one of our party was particularly admired; and upon learning its value, the been-bashi, or colonel of the garrison, offered to give in exchange for it one of his scarlet slaves.

After making our obeisances we withdrew, and on the stairs found the servants posted in line with the most money-beseeching faces imaginable. We did not succeed in getting out of the house until we had been relieved of all our superfluous cash, amounting in all, as near as I remember, to five or six dollars. This was, however, a trifling tax, compared to the honour of smoking a pipe with an agha, exchanging nods with an emir, and sitting cheek-by-jowl with a been-bashi.

At the door, we met with and were formally introduced to the English consul. It has been our lot to meet with queer specimens of mortality in the shape of American consuls in various parts of the world, and more particularly in the Mediterranean, where they have been scattered about by our naval commanders with an unsparing hand. But

an English consul, being generally more carefully selected, and always better paid, is a totally different personage. Our surprise, then, may be well imagined when, in the person of the English consul, we were made acquainted with a ragged, dirty old man, with a long grizzly beard, and looking not unlike an old-clothesman. He was habited in the Greek costume ; his feet disdained the vulgar encumbrances of shoes or stockings, and he carried with a very consular air a dozen fowls in one hand and a basket of eggs in the other. His name was Il Signor C——, of Venetian descent, and he had been born and brought up on the island : he spoke Greek, Turkish, and a most appalling jargon which passed for Italian ; it need scarcely be added, that of English he was most profoundly ignorant. I inquired of him what were the usual occupations of the inhabitants. "Making wine," was the reply. "But that only occupies two months ; what do you do during the remaining ten months of the year?"—"Aspettano, signor ! they wait, sir !"

The island of Tenedos is, indeed, as much celebrated for its excellent wine, as for the general indolence of its inhabitants. It is said to contain a population of 3000, including a garrison of 200 soldiers. Originally peopled from Greece, and celebrated in poetic history as the island behind which the Greeks concealed themselves, in order to throw the Trojans off their guard, it has been alternately occupied by Persians, Greeks, and Venetians, until it fell into the possession of the Turks. As it would in the hands of an enemy be a formidable station to harass the navigation of the Dardanelles, the Turkish government have spared no expense to render the fortifications as complete as possible.

Our new acquaintances from Tenedos returned our visit the next morning. After spending some time in examining the ship, they retired to the cabin, where they commenced smoking their pipes. Cider was set before them with the

proper explanation that it was not wine, whereupon they drank freely. A few bottles of champagne were waggishly introduced, as another variety of cider; and although they had previously lauded the cider, as *pek aee*, or very good, they unanimously pronounced the champagne to be much superior. We were afterward informed that our common ship's whiskey (not being under the ban of their holy law) would have been quite as acceptable. We had an opportunity of witnessing the fondness of the Turks for medicines, and the consideration with which they view a Frank physician. Our surgeon was wearied with details of their various ailments, and their repeated and urgent requests for doses of physic. Tired with weighing out powders, he at length prepared a most villanous, but harmless, compound, which he gravely distributed among them for their imaginary complaints. If they once taste it, they will long remember the marvellous medicine of the American haykim.\*

In other respects, our Turkish visitors were extremely courteous and easy in their manners. Some of the more elderly of the party certainly exhibited what we are accustomed to consider as Turkish gravity, but the middle-aged and the young were as gay, and perhaps more lively than the same number of our own countrymen would have been under similar circumstances. They took leave of us with many expressions of good-will, and often repeated invitations to come once more on shore and pay them another visit.

\* Doctor.



## CHAPTER VI.

Troad—Poems attributed to Homer—Obscurity of the Subject—Visit on Shore—Disappointment—Lower Dardanelles.

WE were under way at daylight next morning, and consumed an entire day in beating up against a head wind, and the strong current which always issues from the Dardanelles and sweeps along the coast of Troy. What volumes have been written on the subject of Troy, and the question not only of its precise locality, but even of its existence, is still undecided. The Trojan war lasted but ten years, and the war about Troy has lasted as many centuries; nor is it likely soon to be terminated as long as the loose rhapsodies of poets are construed as literally as the pages of a modern guide-book. The poems attributed to Homer are thought to have been composed about 400 years after the destruction of Troy, and it is known that they could not have been written until three hundred years later still, for the obvious reason that there were no suitable writing materials until that period.\* And yet all the grave and learned dissertations about Troy are based upon such loose documents. Alexander, who always carried with him a copy of the Iliad, and felt or feigned the warmest admiration for the Homeric heroes, visited this plain twenty-one hundred years ago, and offered garlands and sacrifices before what was pointed out to him as the tomb of Achilles. From thence he is said to have "ascended to the storm-exposed city of Priam,"† but Strabo has shown that Alexander was

\* Wolf, *Prolegomena* to Homer.

† The weight of evidence with respect to the site of Troy appears to be

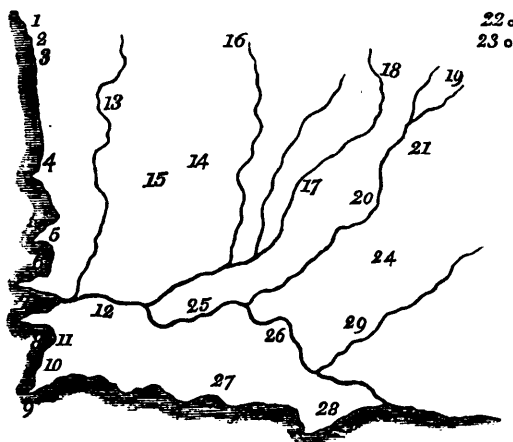
deceived in believing the Ilium of his day to have been the ancient city of Priam, and that his theatrical enthusiasm was expended upon a spurious object. It is well known that Alexander founded the city of Alexandria Troas (now known as Eski Stamboul) on the seacoast, but historians are not agreed whether he meant to designate the precise site of ancient Troy, or merely to commemorate his important visit.

In perusing the accounts of travellers who have visited this celebrated spot, it is curious to notice how completely the imagination has run away with the judgment, and how authoritatively they pronounce upon a subject which Strabo, writing 1800 years ago, was unable to elucidate. What was then considered by the best historians as enveloped in Egyptian darkness, is to these travellers as clear as noon-day; although no tourist (Hobhouse alone excepted) has undertaken to correct the random guesses of his predecessors, without falling into the oddest blunders imaginable. One of the most amusing of this class is the English traveller Clarke, who scales the summit of a mound, calls it the tomb of Hector, and after sacrificing to his manes with a bottle of London porter, commences with abusing all his predecessors, and then obligingly informs us which is the Scamander and which the Simois, where good King Priam kept house, and where the Grecian fleet was moored. All this pompous guess-work, for it does not merit the name even of hypothesis, is amusingly varied by a volley of abuse upon all who presume to doubt. Thus he speaks of the ingenious Bryant, as "Jacob Bryant and his pettifogging skeptics," and those who venture to hesitate are charged with "the most contemptible blasphemy upon the most sacred records of history!"\*

in favour of Boornabashi, a little village near the hot springs, and between the Simois and the sources of the Scamander, about seven miles from the seashore in a direct line.

\* Sic in Clarke's *Life and Remains*.

For such, however, as may happen to have this book with them on the spot, and have a taste for these investigations, we annex a small plan of the Troad, with the various views entertained respecting its topography by different travellers.



1. Trapeza of Olivier.
2. Temple of Apollo Thymbrias.
3. A modern cemetery.
4. Tomb of Ajax, according to Olivier.
5. Rhetean promontory.
6. Harbour of the Grecian fleet.
7. Mouth of the Simois.
8. Koomkalay, or sandy fort.
9. Sigean promontory, now Cape Janissary.
10. Tomb of Achilles, according to Olivier.
11. Tomb of Patroclus, according to the same author.
12. Mender Soo, or River Scamander.
13. River Thymbrius; modern Thimbrek. Simois of Hobhouse.

14. Mound of the plain.
15. New Ilium, according to Clarke.
16. Hill, with a few granite columns.
17. Scamander of Clarke. Simois of others.
18. Boornabashi. Troja vetus of Olivier. The Troy of Chevalier, Gell, &c.
19. Hot and cold springs.
20. Scamander of Olivier.
21. Ruins. Boornabashi of Clarke.
22. Supposed tomb of Hector.
23. Supposed tomb of Priam.
24. Supposed tomb of Æsyegetus, according to Olivier.
25. Old channel of Boornabashi, according to Clarke.
26. New channel, supposed to be artificial.
27. Mound of Antilochus, according to Olivier.
28. Mound of Penelaus, according to the same.
29. Amnis navigabilis of Pliny.

With all this imposing pretension to exactness, there is not more than one point in this plan which can lay claim to probable accuracy ; and when we strip the subject of all the fabulous creations of the poet, and the subsequent mystifications of the historian, we can only glean a few barren facts.

*Fuit Ilium*—Troy was. Of this there can be little doubt, although the precise period of its existence is absolutely unknown. The reader may choose between the computation in Pausanias which places it 1270 years before Christ, or twenty years later according to Larcher, or 100 years later as Eusebius thinks he has established ; or he may adopt the chronology of Newton, which places it only 900 years before Christ. In either case he will not be more than 400 years wide of the mark ; but this is a mere trifle when we are discussing facts which may have occurred three thousand years ago.

It appears, however, to be established, that such a town

once existed. A peaceful tribe of Greeks, who subsisted by grazing cattle, formerly occupied the plains of Troy and the adjacent regions. This tribe, under a sachem or chief, who has descended to us under the title of the godlike King Priam, possessed a town which the poets have of course invested with the requisite towers and castellated battlements, but which in all probability was a mud village, surrounded by walls of the same humble materials. After the second Theban war, a band of robbers and cut-throats, "the cankers of a calm world and a long peace," allured by the hope of plunder, determined upon a marauding expedition against this village. The origin of this war is said to have been the usual *teterrima causa*,—a woman. This appears to be the general opinion, although the father of history thinks that he has satisfactorily proved that Helen never was at Troy, and that after its destruction Menelaus found her at Memphis in Egypt.

Homer estimates the number of Greeks engaged in this expedition at 100,000 fighting men, and nearly 200 vessels. A cipher more or less would cost the poet no trouble, unless it should happen to interfere with the metre, and we are at liberty to make our own deductions accordingly. Striking off one-half of the number of vessels, and supposing them to be no larger than those employed at the present day in these seas, we may conclude that these freebooters scarcely exceeded a thousand in number. They succeeded in making good their landing, and a series of petty skirmishes ensued, in which the chief weapons employed were the nails and fists, clubs, sticks, and stones,

*Unguibus et pugnâ, dein fustibus  
Pugnabant—*

Even through the graceful veil which poetry has thrown over this story, it is not difficult to perceive that this ten years' skirmish was carried on pretty much in the same

manner as a modern Greek fight.\* Millions of combatants would, according to the poet, be engaged in mortal conflict during a whole day, and the awful result would be that some one adventurous Greek or Trojan might be knocked over with a stone, or peradventure the capture of a fat ox be considered as decisive of the contest ; and such portions as escaped the tooth of the soldier would be paraded around the camp as the *spolia opima* of victory. It is amusing to see how the spirit of poetry can invest with dignity the most lowly subject, give intense interest to the veriest commonplace, and lead us, in spite of ourselves, to side with the weak, the wicked, or the undeserving. Not contented with distorting facts, it has not unfrequently been made to dignify crime ; and robberies, rapes, and murders, in the hands of a Homer, an Ariosto, a Byron, or a Scott, become praiseworthy, and almost divine transactions. It would be curious to try some of the most memorable and bepraised deeds of antiquity by our modern notions of equity. We should very possibly discover that where the ancients decreed an ovation, we should have recourse to the whipping-post ; that solitary imprisonment would be substituted for the civic crown ; and that what formerly elevated a man to the rank of a demigod, would in our days inevitably bring him to the gallows.

But leaving the "winy Homer"† and his splendid fables,‡

\* The ground is classic, and like the worthies of Homer, the hostile heroes must first abuse each other . . . Then he would hear the descendants of Themistocles vociferating, "Approach, ye turbaned dogs ! come and see us making wadding of your Koran ; look at us trampling on your faith, and giving pork to your daughters." . . . When the carnage ceased, he would find half a dozen killed on either side, and he would see the classic Greeks wrangling over the bodies of their own people for the dead men's shirts. . . .

† *Laudibus arguitur vini, vinosus Homerus.*

*Hor. Ep. xix.*

‡ "The chief of ancient critics," says Shaftesbury, "extols Homer above all things for understanding how to lie in perfection. His lies, according to

our business is with the plains of Troy, as they appeared in the summer of 1831.

What is called the Troad, or plain of Troy, is about thirty miles in length along the coast, and extends from the Dardanelles to the Gulf of Adramettus. At either extremity, however, it terminates in elevated land, as at Sigeum or Cape Janissary on the north, and Cape Baba to the south. Sailing along the coast you see a barren plain, bounded in the distance by a low chain of hills. The most elevated of this range is called Ida, and to a number of pyramidal mounds of earth are fancifully given the names of Hector, Æsyegetus, Priam, Ajax, Protesilaus, &c. Independent of their historical or fabulous associations, the plains of Troy present a dismal scene. They are covered with thistles and a species of scrub oak, and during the winter are generally overflowed with water. Near the sea-shore the plain ends abruptly in low clay banks a few feet high. We came to anchor in the afternoon near Koom Boorno (sand cape), with a village situated on an elevated hill. This village I find entered in my note book, from the information of our pilots, under the name of Javoor Keui. It should be stated that this name, or rather Giaour Keui, means literally Greek village, and does not designate this from any other; and affords another example of the facility with which mistakes respecting the names of places may be made by travellers. As we approached the shore, the scene became lively and animated. Reapers were cutting down grain, peasants were actively employed in loading carts, drawn by oxen, with the rich harvest, and the crowd of labourers, with their gay, particoloured dresses, gave an air of gayety and enchantment to this pastoral picture. From the summit of the hill a steep and winding path descended to the seashore. In many places it was completely

that master's opinion, and the gravest and most venerable writers, were in themselves the justest moral truths, and exhibitive of the best doctrines and instruction in life and manners."

hidden from view by the tall trees which overshadowed it, but in the open spaces we could see groups of women passing up and down the path. From the crowds who surrounded one particular spot, it was easy to perceive that a fountain of water was the chief attraction. Impatient to mingle in this busy scene, and to set foot upon the continent of Asia, we left the ship and hastened on shore. The water was of crystal transparency, and the boat grounded at the distance of several hundred yards from the shore ; but in our eagerness to land we rejected the proffered backs of the sailors, and jumping overboard waded quickly to land. We soon struck into the hill-path noticed from the ship, and about midway up we came to the fountain. It was a lovely spot, shaded by large trees, and looking out upon the wide Egean with the islands of Tenedos, Lemnos, and Imbro in the distance, and beyond them all the lofty peaks of Samothraki. Almost under our feet lay our noble ship, and around her were scattered many of those picturesque vessels whose white and fantastically shaped sails gave an additional interest to the scene. The far edge of the horizon was dotted with white specks, while here and there a pile of canvass, rising like a pyramid in the air, indicated the presence of some foreign vessel of war.

The fountain itself was composed of a large coarse-grained white marble slab, standing upright against the side of the hill, and furnished with metallic spouts, through which the water was discharged into a deep marble basin beneath. Connected with this was a range of similar stone basins or troughs, evidently intended to supply the cattle with water. On the upright slab was a long Greek inscription, which we did not copy, because the Greek cross above it attested its modern origin, and we had no doubt that it had already been copied by many of the hosts of travelling bookmakers who had preceded us. Although on classic ground, we did not offer libations to the goddess Egeria, but contented ourselves with slaking our thirst in the limpid stream, which



derives its supply from the Scamander, and congratulating each other on the prospect of a speedy termination of our voyage. We then hastened forwards to the plains of Troy. A weary and toilsome scramble through scrub oaks, thistles, and reeds, with no work of art nor any striking production of nature to animate our search, soon induced our party to retrace their steps; and one of the number, who had travelled in Greece, vehemently declared that the Troad was as complete a humbug as Corinth or the ruins of ancient Argos. The plain, it is true, is here, and so is the yellow, or rather muddy Scamander, and the little brook Simois, and the gigantic tumuli which are supposed to be sepulchral mounds; and at a distance is the little dirty hamlet of Boornabashi, with its hot-springs; but, except as affording a fine field for conjecture and snipe-shooting, all the rest is,

“Τισιτισισισιο τισ τισ τήχ  
 Κικκαβαδ κικκαβαδ  
 ‘Τοροτοροτορο τορολιλιγιζ.’”

We returned to the village Yenikeui, near our landing-place, and were soon surrounded by numbers of haggard wretches, who implored our charity, or endeavoured to persuade us to exchange genuine antiques and copper coins for the silver representations of his Spanish majesty. We purchased a few; and among them a brass finger-ring, which may perhaps have decorated the royal hand of good King Priam, or the king of men. In the course of our stroll through the town we had occasion to witness the fabrication of pottery—the most useful, and probably the oldest, of the arts. In shape and fineness the articles manufactured here are not superior to those which have descended to us from our aboriginal predecessors through many centuries. Provisions, such as Indian corn, egg-plants, melons, poultry, and eggs, were remarkably cheap: of the latter, 400 were purchased for a dollar. The bread is black and coarse;

but after eating ship-biscuit for nearly two months we found this very palatable. In the shop of a grocer we observed a number of modern Greek Bibles with the London imprint. We inquired if many were sold: the man replied, that the people were too poor to purchase, and he was not such a fool as to give them away. If this be true, it would seem that notwithstanding the praiseworthy efforts of the London society, its objects are defeated by the selfishness of its Trojan agent.

The next morning found us under way, and beating up through a very narrow channel: we weathered a rock, north of Rabbit Island, and stood over to Imbro, to avoid the current which is here sensibly felt running out of the Dardanelles. As soon as the direction of the wind permitted, we shaped our course for the straits, keeping close in with the European or Thracian shore. A mound which we noticed on the Thracian peninsula is considered, but I know not on what authority, to be the tomb of Protesilaus. At any rate, the Macedonian madman Alexander supposed it to be such, and sacrificed to the manes of that hero. We soon entered these celebrated straits, which are about six miles wide at their mouth, and defended by very powerful military works, built, it is said, by Mohammed IV., in 1659, to guard against the hostile attacks of the Venetians. The castles and long line of batteries, tier upon tier, attached to them, had an imposing effect. They are said to have been much improved of late years, and to be quite as efficient and formidable as any similar fortification of the same size in any part of Europe. In some parts of the works we could see those immense brass guns which, from their size, have figured largely in the journals of travellers. They discharge stone balls, of which heaps were piled up alongside of them. We are now within the Dardanelles. High hills are on either side, under cultivation on the European shore; but on the Asiatic or Trojan coast covered with wood, chiefly the oak (*Quercus aegilops*), which fur-

nishes the valonia. Numerous English vessels were anchored along the shore, waiting for cargoes of this article, which has of late years been extensively introduced into England for the purposes of tanning leather. The principle of tannin is found most abundant in the cup, although the whole acorn is used for this purpose. We beat up eight miles, and came to anchor four miles below the upper castles, a short distance astern of the corvette John Adams, which had left America two weeks before our vessel was launched from the stocks.

We went on shore on the Asiatic side, in hopes of picking up some game, which we were informed abounded on the hills. A camel\* and its young were the first objects that attracted our attention, and brought with them a vivid impression that we were in the land of the East. We passed likewise a Turkish peasant, raking wheat-straw; but, aside from his costume, we saw nothing in his instrument, or the manner in which he handled it, different from an American farmer. Scarcely stopping to pluck the various plants, among which we remarked the *Spartan cistus*, *sumach*, and the beautiful *arbutus* with its scarlet fruit, we hurried on to a Turkish village, which, from the ship, appeared to be on a hill nearly over the water. The hills in this neighbourhood are composed of clay in various states of induration, with beds of a vesicular limestone. Near the shore the clay-beds are very extensive, and beautifully variegated with many bright colours. About midway up a calcareous grit made its appearance, and near the summit a fine-grained limestone. When we had attained this elevation, the village appeared on the summit of a hill still farther in the interior, and, nothing daunted by the disappointment, we pushed on in hopes of reaching it in the course of an hour

\* There are two species of the camel—*C. Bactrianus*, with two humps, and *C. dromedarius*, with but one. It is the latter species, which is more generally known under the name of dromedary, that is most common in Turkey, Persia, and Syria,

at the furthest. Crossing a piece of cultivated ground, which was covered with ripe musk and water-melons, we had much difficulty in preventing a Turkish peasant who was near the place from running away. We made him understand that we wished to purchase some of his melons; to which he agreed. After despatching several on the spot, a new difficulty arose, as we had no money except gold with us. By this time he had recovered from his alarm at the presence of so many armed strangers, and told us, very civilly, that we were heartily welcome to what we had eaten, and as much as we could carry away. Upon inquiring the distance to the village, which was then in sight, but apparently farther than ever, he told us that it would take us full two hours to reach it. We had already traversed through bush and brier at the expense of our skin and clothes; and as the sun was sinking fast in the horizon, we determined to retrace our way to the ship.

Although the country appeared to be in general wild and uncultivated, and holding forth an encouraging prospect of game to the sportsmen, yet nothing beyond a solitary woodpecker (*Picus major*) rewarded their exertions. In one of the wild mountain-paths we suddenly fell in with a Turkish youth, about 16 years old, mounted on a spirited Arabian, and pouring forth a song with all the light-heartedness of a school-boy. Upon seeing us, his hand was instantly upon his dagger; but after a moment's pause he approached, threw himself from his horse, and addressed us with all the ease and self-possession of a well-bred man. His face was extremely prepossessing; and although his legs were bare, and from exposure tanned yellow, yet the almost feminine delicacy of his complexion and the richness of his dress induced us to suppose he was the son of some man of consideration in the vicinity. His curiosity was much excited when he learned that we were Americans; and his questions evinced more judgment than could have been expected from one of his age. Who was our *padir shah*? what was

our religion? what use did we make of all the opium we carried away from Turkey? and a number of other questions were uttered with the volubility of a Greek, rather than with the stupid apathy which we are accustomed to consider as characteristic of the Turk. We parted with many expressions of good-will on our side, which he returned with the most graceful gestures and acknowledgments.

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## CHAPTER VII.

Visit from the Pacha—His armed Attendants—Anecdote—Dardanelles—Difficulties of the Passage—Scenery—Sestos and Abydos—Lord Byron—An American Swimmer—Forts of the Dardanelles—Foraging Visit to Maito—Mode of taking Fish in the Hellespont—Lampsaki—Gallipoli—Sea of Marmora.

ON the following day we received a visit from the aid of the Pacha of the Dardanelles, accompanied by an Italian physician, Dr. Lazaro, as his interpreter. The aid, whose rank was that of a colonel, was splendidly dressed in a military uniform, and, but for his scarlet fez, or Turkish cap, might almost have been taken for a European officer. He was extremely gay and frank in his manners, laughed heartily, and tossed off our cider with great freedom, but objected to champagne, not, as he declared, from any religious scruples, but on account of the example to his attendants. Among these were two Greek slaves, who had embraced Islamism, and several soldiers in superb scarlet uniforms. Their arms consisted of a pair of huge pistols, with silver mountings, worn in the belt, and a dagger or yataghan. This is furnished with a large and curiously-shaped ivory handle, and a blade eighteen inches long,

slightly curved, with its cutting edge on the concave side. The blade was inlaid with gold, and was covered with long inscriptions on each side in Turkish characters.

A pair of foils and masks happening to attract the attention of our visiter, their use was explained, when he expressed a great curiosity to witness a scientific set-to. This was immediately complied with, and in all probability it was the first thing of the kind that he had ever seen, for his countenance immediately assumed a grave and anxious appearance, as he watched the progress of the mimic fight. It was highly amusing to witness the eager gaze and animated looks of his attendants; and as the passes became more frequent, they held their breath, grasped their arms, and seemed ready to join in the conflict. The scene was becoming too serious, and we accordingly broke off, and adjourned to the cabin to resume our pipes and thin potations; for by this time we had furnished ourselves with tobacco and the Turkish chibook of the legitimate size.

As the jest and the laugh freely circulated, some one observed, that in America we had been led to believe that a Turk never smiled, and that they regarded the slightest jest with aversion; but that from what we had already seen we were agreeably surprised to find them a set of jolly dogs. The colonel, with great readiness, immediately replied, that he also had been surprised to find the Americans such polished and agreeable people, and not, as he had been informed, complete savages. "But I suppose," he added with a significant smile, "the mutual misrepresentations about each other may be traced to the same kind source. Let us hope, that when we come to be more intimately acquainted, the result will be reciprocal esteem and respect." He took leave of us with many cordial invitations to pay him a visit, which we promised to do, if we were detained by the wind another day.

In the afternoon we received a present, in the name of the pacha, of fresh beef, half a dozen sheep of the broad-

tailed variety, and remarkably fine lobsters, besides several bushels of delicious white and black grapes, egg-plants, ockres, and other vegetables. This was accompanied by two demijohns of the excellent wine of the country. According to oriental usages, a present always requires a return, and we accordingly, for want of something better, begged his excellency to accept a few boxes of our best American cider.

The Dardanelles, or Hellespont,\* for it is known under both these names, is, according to the chart, about fifty miles in length from its mouth to Gallipoli, where it begins to widen into the Sea of Marmora. Its breadth varies from two to five miles, but in the narrowest part, as at the upper castles and Abydos, it does not exceed a mile and a half across. There is a perpetual current running into the Mediterranean at the rate of from one to four miles the hour, which presents a great obstacle to commerce. As the wind most frequently has the same direction with the current, vessels are detained many days, and even weeks, waiting for a favourable wind. We were informed that an American vessel was compelled to wait here last year a whole month for a fair wind, and an Austrian was still more unlucky, for it was detained fifty-eight days. This was not a very agreeable prospect for us, and we wished most heartily for one of our own steamboats, to give us a friendly tug through the most difficult part of the passage. Two or three powerful steamboats would indeed be of great service here, and would amply remunerate their owners. It should, however, be a government concern; and all vessels, upon paying a sum equivalent to light or sound duties, should be entitled to its benefits. The whole distance for

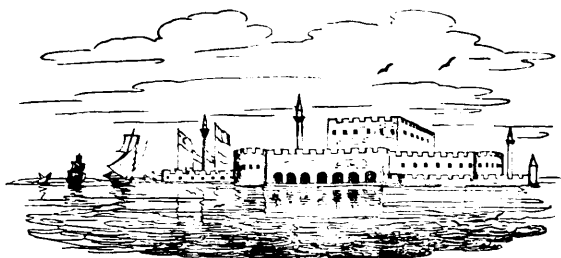
\* A small town, Dardanus, near Cape Janizary (Sigeum), originated the first name; the second is a compound, meaning the Grecian Sea. Qd Bochart, however, derives the latter from Elisha, the eldest of Javan's sons, Elis-pont!! The Turkish name is Boghaz-hissarlairee; which may be translated, the fortified passage or straits.

which the services of a steamboat would be required does not exceed five miles ; and this might be easily done by two vessels, which would, at the same time, serve to form a daily line between Constantinople and Smyrna. The distance between these places by water does not much exceed three hundred miles ; and this could be accomplished with ease, by vessels built after our Hudson River models, in twenty-four hours.

While we were speculating upon our future prospects, and anticipating a tedious delay, our pilot, who had been anxiously scrutinizing the southern horizon at the entrance of the straits, announced that the wind was coming in from the sea, and gave the joyful order to weigh anchor. We quickly got under way, with nearly one hundred sail of all descriptions and nations, literally whitening the Hellespont with our canvass. Among these vessels were Italian bombards, Dutch galiots, Ionian trabacolos, Greek misticos (under the Russian flag), English brigs, and a fleet of Turkish chektermays and saccalayvas.

The scenery on each side strongly reminded us of our own dear Hudson above the Highlands, although infinitely more picturesque. The hills slope up from the water's edge, sometimes forming bold and abrupt bluffs in their ascent, while at others the gradual rise is interrupted by long lines of terraces, absolutely glittering with flowers of every brilliant hue. Occasionally beautiful valleys descend to the water's edge, interspersed with cottages and country-seats, among groves of pines, orange, and lemon-trees, while dense clumps of the dark green cypress marked the situation of a Turkish burying-ground, and, by its sombre hue, heightened by contrast the general beauty of the picture. White marble fountains, shaded by majestic trees, were surrounded by groups of Turks in gay party-coloured dresses, smoking their pipes, and quaffing sherbet in the shade.





Upper Castle.

As we approached the extensive fortresses which command the narrowest part of the Dardanelles, a scene of a different nature presented itself. As a compliment, we hoisted a large Turkish flag, and immediately a hundred flags arose from every part of the castles on either side of the straits. The consuls of all the European nations residing here also hoisted the standards of their respective countries,\* and the long line of white battlements was crowded with spectators. Taking the lead of our fleet, we ran rapidly up the straits, and passed a low point of land on our right, which is covered with a circular battery, marking the site of Abydos. At this place Xerxes crossed with his Persian host, on his disastrous expedition against Greece. The wind, shortly after we had passed this place, died away, and we anchored about three miles above, on the European side, under a high point of land, which is commonly supposed to have been the ancient locality of Sestos. This spot has obtained a singular celebrity, as the

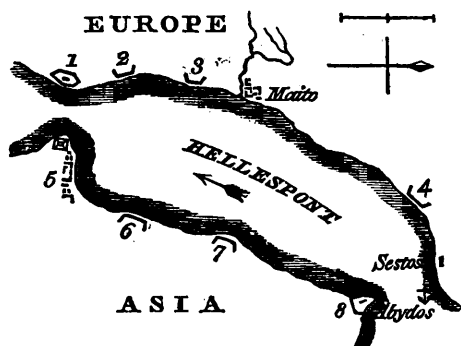
\* The American flag was the only one not exhibited. We were afterward informed that we have a consul here, but he was too poor to purchase a flag. He is a respectable Jew, with twenty-five children, and his consular fees amount to about six dollars per annum. It need scarcely be added that he has no salary. His official rank, however, is very great, and he enjoys the inestimable privilege of strutting through the dirty streets of this village with his twenty-five children all clad in yellow slippers. He is the Levantine Jew alluded to by Turner, who was formerly the English vice-consul at the Dardanelles, a post which his family has filled for successive generations.

place whence Leander swam across the Hellespont to visit his mistress. As doubts had been thrown upon this important historical fact by various erudite authors, Lord Byron, whose fondness for aquatic exercises of this kind is well known, attempted to prove the possibility of Leander's feat by swimming from Sestos to Abydos. Unfortunately, however, for his lordship's experiment, he seems to have mistaken the real locality; for, according to his friend Hobhouse, who was an eyewitness of the exploit, he swam from the European shore, "nearly a mile and a half above the European castle, at a point of land forming the western bank of the deep bay of Maito, and landed two and a half miles below the castle on the Asiatic side." Commodore De Kay swam across from the shore near which our ship was at anchor, and of course from the most authentic site of Sestos, to the opposite shore, under the point of Abydos, in about an hour and a half, with comparative ease.

The whole thing of course is of little moment, except as it gave rise to an amusing controversy between Byron and Mr. Turner. This latter gentleman insisted, that to prove the possibility of Leander's exploit, Byron should have swum back again, allowing as reasonable a delay for rest as Leander might have done for love. Turner attempted to swim from the Asiatic side; but, after struggling twenty-five minutes against the stream ("the first modern tory, Byron observes, who ever swam against the stream for half that time"), he found that he had not advanced a hundred yards. The truth is, that by going up on either side, so as to take advantage of the downward current, there is no difficulty in passing and repassing the straits. But, as Byron observes, whether Leander really performed it is another question, for he might have had a *small boat* to save him the trouble.

The accompanying sketch, on a scale of an inch to a mile, will furnish the reader with an idea of the various defences of the Dardanelles, from the upper or inner castles

to Abydos. It will be recollected, that in addition to these, an enemy would have first to encounter the fire of the two lower castles at the entrance of the Dardanelles, besides several water-batteries along the shores, carrying altogether 203 guns, previous to meeting these formidable castles.



EUROPEAN.		ASIATIC.	
No. 1. Chilit Bahar	155 guns.	No. 5. Dardanelles, or Soul- tanie Iscalessee	196 guns.
2. Kiamlay Boormiay	30 do.	6. Water Battery	50 do.
3. Water Battery	20 do.	7. Kiossie Boornoo	46 do.
4. Boovalli Iscalessee	50 do.	8. Nagara Boornoo	84 do.
	<hr/> 255		<hr/> 376

Although these present a formidable aspect to an enemy, yet their importance has, we imagine, been greatly over-rated. A debarkation on the Thracian peninsula would take the works on the European shore with great ease, and those on the opposite side would fall of course. The real enemy, and the one most to be dreaded, is far in the rear of all these formidable works; and past experience should have instructed the Turk that Russia does not depend so much upon her ships as upon her armed battalions.

In the afternoon we set out upon a visit to a little village, called Maito, pleasantly situated on the borders of a deep bay below us, on the European side, and formerly a naval

station of the Athenians. Passing the point opposite Abydos where Xerxes is supposed to have landed, we reached the village at dusk, and proceeded to the chief coffee-house in the place. It was dimly lighted up by an antique-looking lamp, suspended from the ceiling, and the cord by which it was attached was covered with a number of swallows, twittering and nestling about, perfectly unheeding the smoke and chattering below. The floor of this coffee-house was of earth, and the walls and ceilings were covered with gay paintings of fruits and flowers (arabesques), which had a very pretty effect. After partaking of pipes and coffee, and discharging our bill, which amounted, if I recollect right, to the enormous sum of three cents for a party of six persons, we walked out to examine the village. For want of a better guide, we followed the steps of our Greek purveyor, who, upon the strength of having lost his eyes in a Russian campaign, and speaking a little Italian, is the acknowledged agent and, for aught I know to the contrary, the consul-general for all the powers of Europe. The village is on a low marshy piece of ground, and a dirty stream of water occupied the centre of almost every lane through which we passed. It was formerly celebrated by Xenophon under the name of Madytus, but its present distinction is confined to furnishing Greek carpenters and masons for Constantinople. Preceded by a Greek lad, bearing a paper lantern nearly as long as himself, we threaded many a dirty alley, while our consul-general bawled out his demands for poultry, &c. in the name of the United States of America. Heads were thrust out from the windows, and various shrill voices were heard in reply, and our homely occupation afforded us an excellent excuse for seeing the interior of many families literally in dishabille. They all appeared to be miserably poor. On the ground-floors a large mat was spread, which, from the children still asleep on them, we supposed must serve as beds for the whole male part of the family. The women

and girls sleep up stairs. The old women were disagreeably ugly, but the younger ones had sparkling black eyes and good complexions, as far as it was possible to discover it through the coats of dirt which covered their faces.

Returning to the ship we had an opportunity of witnessing the mode of catching fish by torch-light, which is, I believe, peculiar to the Mediterranean, and forms a beautiful subject of one of Lefueur's pictures. A fire is made on a grating projecting from the bow of the boat. The net is carefully displayed, and the boat rowed slowly along, while a man at the bow alternately strikes the water with the flat part of an oar, and jumps up and down on the bottom of the boat. It was a calm, starlight night, and the various flickering lights moving in all directions, the noise and shouts of the fishermen, and the plashing of the water, came upon us with a strange and startling effect.

The Hellespont has in all ages been celebrated for the abundance and excellence of its fish, and, if necessary, classical authority might be adduced in proof. Commentators have been exceedingly puzzled about an epithet which Homer has applied to the Hellespont, and scores of scholia, annotations, and excursi have been written to prove that Homer, when he speaks of the *broad* Hellespont, either meant to say narrow, or that he knew nothing about it, or that he meant something else. So many wild and absurd conjectures have been sported by the learned as to what should be the real epithet, that I do not fear to advance a conjecture of my own. Insert then meo periculo, "the *fishy* Hellespont," and the interpretation goes on swimmingly. It is true that ἰχθυόεις is scarcely reconcilable with the metre, but every one will admit that it gains in sense what it loses in rhyme.

The next morning we crossed over to Abydos, but after traversing fields covered with wild thyme, nothing but a few ruined walls and cellars of very doubtful antiquity rewarded our search. A favourable breeze springing up,

we rapidly passed Sestos, and the Hellespont now becomes a much wider stream. The mountains on the Asiatic side now recede, leaving wide and fertile plains under high cultivation, while the European shore, retaining its bold, mountainous character, was covered with large flocks of sheep and goats, tended by shepherds, as in the poetic days of pastoral existence.

Passing the towns of Foondookli, Karacoval, and Galata, we were soon abreast of Lamsaki. Under the name of Lampsacus it has obtained some celebrity in ancient history. When the renowned Grecian naval hero Themistocles, who crushed the Persian fleet of Xerxes at Salamis, was afterward banished by his countrymen, the successor of Xerxes magnanimously received him, and allotted the revenues of three rich cities for his support. Lampsaki was one of these cities, and was for some time honoured with his residence. Here, too, resided the stern moralist Epicurus, who by example and precept taught that true happiness consisted alone in intellectual enjoyments, and in the practice of virtue; but by a strange perversity his name has descended to us as the apostle of voluptuousness. It is possible that the character of the ancient Lampsacus may have contributed to tarnish his own, for it was so celebrated for its worship of the obscene deity, that its name has passed into a proverb.

*Nam mea Lampsacio lascivit pagina versu.*

MARTIAL, lib. ii. ep. 17.

Below this town we endeavoured to find the Egos Potamos, or Goat's River, which is celebrated as the scene of a naval battle between the rival republics of Greece some twenty-three centuries ago. We saw indeed a little creek, Kara Ova Soo, which is usually noted as the place where this action occurred, but it required much faith to believe that 180 vessels on one side, and perhaps as many on the

other, should have been able to fight or manœuvre in this contemptible creek. If a battle in which such numbers were engaged ever did take place here, it must have been an affair of rowboats. The modern Lampsaki has a pretty appearance from the water, is still as famous for its wine as it was 2000 years ago, and at present appears to contain about 200 houses.

The breeze continuing to freshen, we soon were abreast of Gallipoli, on the European side, and the largest town on the Hellespont. It is pleasantly situated in a bay on the slope of a hill, and a picturesque rocky bluff juts out from the town, surmounted by a venerable octangular tower, which formerly served the purpose of a lighthouse. Twelve minarets\* were counted from the ship, and this will give a more tolerable idea of its size than the contradictory statements of travellers, who vary in their estimate of its population from 15 to 80,000. We observed in the town a large ruined tower, and the remains of a still greater one, which are not devoid of historic interest. They are said to have been built some 400 years ago, by the celebrated Moslem conqueror Bajazet, surnamed Ylderem, or the Thunderbolt. Gallipoli is likewise memorable as the first town in Europe occupied by the Turks under the learned and virtuous Amurath. The barracks for soldiers appear to be very extensive, and the town has an artificial harbour for small craft, with a small light on one of its piers. Between the two projecting capes on which stand the old

\* The minaret is a slender tower about ten feet in diameter, and from forty to eighty feet high. A spiral staircase within leads to a projecting balcony near the top, from whence the muzzim, or parish clerk, calls the faithful to prayer. These minarets are always painted white, and their summits terminate in a black pointed conical roof. They are always connected with a mosque, and produce a pleasing and picturesque effect in the distance, in spite of the ludicrous association excited by their grotesque form. They have not unaptly been compared to a gigantic candle surmounted by its extinguisher.

and new lighthouses, is a bay of some extent, at the bottom of which is a lofty white octangular tower. This was said by our Greek pilots to be connected in some way with the receipt of customs, but its position and distance from the town renders this assertion very doubtful. The second point bears the new lighthouse, which, however, is never lighted except when the Turkish fleet is at sea. The Hellespont at this place is about seven miles wide, but immediately above spreads out to ten and fifteen, as it terminates in the Sea of Marmora.

At dusk, the island of Marmora was descried from the ship; it was rapidly passed during the evening, and the next morning at daylight found us at anchor under Cape Stefano, with the domes and spires of Constantinople dimly seen through the haze. The wind had died away, and, impatient of any further delay, we hastily threw ourselves into the ship's boat, and proceeded towards the city.



## CHAPTER VIII.

View of Constantinople—Seven Towers—Walls of the City—Seraglio Point—Golden Gate—Galata—Dogs—Monks—Locanda Triestina—Cafés—Golden Horn—Bazars—Turkish Eating-house—Kebaubs.

EVEN at the distance of ten or twelve miles, the view of Constantinople is highly beautiful. A ridge of considerable elevation, covered with habitations, and bristling with minarets and domes, terminates in a low wooded point, which marks the situation of the Seraglio, and the mouth of the Bosphorus. Over this point are the high hills of Asia with the city of Scutari, while farther on the right are seen the picturesque Prinkipos Islands.

At the distance of four miles from Cape Stefano we reached the dilapidated walls of what is well known in the annals of diplomacy as the Seven Towers. Only four towers remain, the others having been destroyed by earthquakes; but it still retains in Turkish the name of Eeaidée Koolaylair, or the Seven Towers. Here commence the sea-walls of the city, which extend to Seraglio Point, a distance of six miles. They are about thirty feet high, with battlements on the top, and at regular intervals strengthened by square bastions or towers. It is in a ruinous state, and apparently of great antiquity. Stones and bricks appear to have been indiscriminately used in its construction, with fragments of white columns, gravestones, and portions of sculptured marble. Here and there we passed a few miserable huts on the outside of the wall, apparently inhabited by fishermen. To avoid the current, we kept close under the walls, which completely shut out the city from our sight; and it was not until we had rounded Seraglio Point,

that glorious Stamboul, the "well defended city," with its princely suburbs, the teeming Golden Horn, and the Bosphorus lined with royal palaces, burst suddenly upon our view.

The Seraglio, with its extensive gardens, occupies the site of the ancient Byzantium. It is on a rising ground, but walls, which are very high at this place, and the thick groves of trees, did not permit us more than an occasional glimpse of the lofty royal palaces within. A substantial stone quay runs along outside of the wall, and serves as a tow-path for boats against the current of the Bosphorus, which here flows with great rapidity. Passing by ranges of cannon of various uncouth forms, we came to the Golden Gate, one of the cockney curiosities of the place. It is merely a large folding gate, covered with gilding; near it we noticed some large bones suspended by chains to the wall, which the vulgar believe to have belonged to a former race of giants. A single glance at the head was sufficient to enable us to pronounce them to belong to the spermaceti whale.\*

We landed near the custom-house in Galata, when a person addressed us in English, and communicated the unpleasant intelligence that plague and cholera were both raging in Constantinople, and that Pera, the residence of the foreign ministers, had been burned to the ground two days previous. Procuring a guide from the motley group around us, we proceeded to the counting-house of a merchant to whom we had letters of introduction. Making our way through narrow lanes, in many places completely shaded by grape-vines, stopping at every moment to survey some novelty, and jostling among Turkish porters, dirty Armenians, more dirty Jews, and chattering Greeks, our

\* *Physeter macrocephalus*. According to Cuvier, a species of this genus is not unfrequently captured in the Adriatic. For many centuries the bones of the extinct elephant and mastodon were supposed in Europe to have belonged to the ancient sons of Anak.

progress was necessarily slow. Two things particularly attracted our notice : the first was the entire absence of wheel-carriages of any description, which gives a strange, silent character to the streets ; the other was the few dogs we met with in our walk. They were, it is true, occasionally to be seen basking in the streets ; but they were perfectly harmless, and if struck ran yelping away. From the relations of travellers we were prepared to find them at every step, and to be attacked, if not absolutely devoured, before we could reach our destination. One of our party, who, *par parenthèse*, was a Philadelphian, declared, that so far from finding dogs in such numbers, he really doubted whether they were as numerous as the hogs in New-York. The merchant received us with much civility, but informed us that every respectable lodging-house had been consumed by the recent fire. His own family resided at a village fourteen miles distant from the city, but he kindly sent one of his clerks with us to make the necessary inquiries for lodgings.

Galata is almost exclusively occupied by Europeans. It is there that all the shops and counting-houses of the merchants and artisans are assembled ; and all the foreign commerce centres in this place. They are exempt from taxes, and enjoy other important privileges ; but it is not true, as stated in all books of travels, that foreigners must reside there, or that they are not allowed to live in Constantinople. Their number is variously estimated at from three to eight thousand, and they are allowed the free exercise of their various religions. Indeed, to see the numbers of Franciscan, Dominican, and other monks stalking about the streets, with their sanctimonious and dirty faces, one would be apt to imagine that he was in Palermo or Messina, rather than in the empire of the Faithful. I was afterward assured by an Irish gentleman, himself a Catholic, that there was no place in Christendom, not even excepting Sicily or Portugal, where the tenets of his church were more

ignorantly falsified, or where a more blind and stupid bigotry prevailed than among the Frank residents of Galata and Pera.

After many inquiries we at last succeeded in obtaining temporary accommodations in a miserable tavern. It was dignified with the title of *Locanda Triestina*, although *Trista* would have been a more suitable appellation. Our hostess, a fat bustling little Italian, ushered us into a dirty room, separated by a thin partition from another, in which a party of French sailors were carousing and shouting bacchanalian songs, with as much ease and impunity as if they occupied a cabaret at Toulon. While our meal was preparing for us, we were diverted with one of the songs, which was repeated so frequently that we could scarcely help retaining some portions of it in our memory.

“Que Mahomed fut peu sage,  
Lorsqu'il interdit le vin ;  
En verité, c'est dommage  
Son paradis est divin.  
Je serois tenté d'y crois,  
Car j'aime fort les houris ;  
Mais si l'on ne peut y boire,  
Serveur au Paradis.”

Our talkative landlady expatiated largely upon the merits of the *Locanda Triestina*, and when she found that to this we lent rather an unwilling ear, dexterously changed the subject, and descanted upon the horrors of Constantinople. According to her statement, life was surrounded by so many terrors and dangers that it was scarcely worth preserving. And then she began to reckon these various horrors on her fingers. There was, first, revolution, then bastinadoes, plague, fire, and cholera. It is impossible to say how far the list might have extended, but we unceremoniously cut it short by requesting to be shown to our sleeping apartments.

*Thursday.* We took a *caïk* (pronounced *cah-eeek*) this

morning, and crossed the Golden Horn to Constantinople. These caïks are the neatest and prettiest boats that ever floated on the water. Light as our Indian bark canoes, they are far more tasteful in their form, and skim over the water with surprising velocity. In their shape &c. they strongly reminded us of those ancient paintings of boats in which Charon is represented as ferrying departed spirits over the Styx, and as they have no row-locks their noiseless progress heightens the resemblance. They are elaborately carved within, and nothing can exceed the scrupulous cleanliness with which they are constantly preserved. The watermen are dressed in a loose white Canton-crape shirt, and wear on their heads a small scarlet scull-cap, which appears to be a feeble protection against a burning sun. They have the reputation of being very civil, notwithstanding their mustachios, which give them a ferocious look, and they afford the finest specimens of the genuine Tatar physiognomy to be found in the neighbourhood of Constantinople.



Turkish Caïkgees, or boatmen.

These caïks are so very light that passengers are compelled to sit down on a carpet in the bottom of the boat, and the least motion, even the turn of the head, is sufficient to disturb the equilibrium. They are so numerous that one is in continual apprehension of being jostled or run over, in

which case they would, from their delicate construction, inevitably be destroyed. Accidents of this kind are, however, very rare ; they shout as they approach each other, glance off to the right or left as required, and hundreds may frequently be seen crowded together, and yet shooting forward in various directions, and avoiding each other with matchless dexterity. The number of these caïks has been variously estimated at from eight to fifteen thousand ; they cost from \$50 to \$150 apiece, and the men are paid \$15 per month, finding themselves. Gentility is measured by the number of oars. A shabby fellow uses a caïk with a single pair of oars ; a gentleman must have two, but cannot exceed three. Foreign ministers are permitted to use seven, while the sultan frequently figures with twenty. From various opportunities which we subsequently had of testing their speed, there is no question that a three-oared caïk, manned by Turkish rowers, would far outstrip our fleetest Whitehall barges.

The Golden Horn, at its mouth, is about as wide as the East River ; and in less time than I have taken to describe the caïk, we were transported across, and landed on a low wooden wharf on the opposite side. Making our way through narrow rough-paved streets, we soon found ourselves in the most striking part of Constantinople. It is needless to state that we were in the far-famed Bazar. The general effect is splendid and imposing ; and yet, when examined in detail, there is little to create surprise or excite wonder.

The Bazar, as every one knows, is a collection of shops where goods are sold by retail : it covers several acres, and contains numerous streets crossing each other in every direction. A description of one shop will serve for all. It is a little stall, about ten or twelve feet square, hung round with the various articles exposed for sale : like the shops of Pompeia, they are entirely open in front, and are closed at night by hanging shutters, which serve as an awning during

the day. The floor of the stall is raised two feet from the ground ; and upon a small rug, spread out on this floor, sits the cross-legged Turkish or Armenian shopkeeper. A small door behind him opens into a little recess or apartment, where those articles are kept which cannot be conveniently exposed in the stall. In making purchases, it is necessary to be on your guard, if you would avoid the grossest imposition. The Armenian, Greek, Persian, and Jewish shopkeepers do not hesitate to ask, at first, double the price which they mean eventually to take, and the Turk is fast falling into the same practice. After I had visited these bazars several times, I inquired of a Turk, from whom I had made several purchases, why he had adopted the unfair practices of his neighbours ? He replied, that they had informed him, that Franks were so much in the habit of beating down the price, that if they named immediately the lowest sum they would never be able to dispose of their goods ; and that finding this to be really the case, he had, of course, adopted the practice. In general, however, it is safest to deal with the Turk.

The bazars are covered overhead, and in many places arched over with stone in a substantial manner. As you traverse them, astonishment is raised at their apparently endless extent and varied riches. Here, as far as the eye can reach, are seen ranges of shops filled with slippers and shoes of various brilliant hues : there, are exposed the gaudy products of the Persian loom. At one place drugs and spices fill the air with their scents, while at another, a long line of arms and polished cutlery flash upon the eye. Each street is exclusively occupied by a particular branch of trade, and we traversed for hours the various quarters in which books, caps, jewelry, harness, trunks, garments, furs, &c., were separately exposed for sale. The crowds which thronged the bazars were so dense that it was with no little difficulty we made good our way : and when to this are added the numerous persons who were running about, hold-

ing up articles for sale, and crying out the price at the top of their voices—the sonorous Turkish accents predominating over the various dialects of Europe—with the running accompaniment of the ceaseless Greek chatter, one may form a tolerably accurate idea of the noise and bustle of the scene. In many districts, such as the seal-cutters, diamond-workers, pipemakers, &c., the same little stall serves both as a place to sell their wares and as a workshop to manufacture them; thus giving an additional air of life and movement to the bustle which continually pervades these regions. No person sleeps within the walls of the Bazar. It is closed near sunset by twenty-two immense gates, which lead into as many different streets; and the shopkeepers, at that time, may be seen returning to their homes in different parts of the city, or filling the numerous caïks which then literally darken the waters of the Bosphorus and the Golden Horn.

In the course of our rambles through the streets our astonishment was excited by witnessing the enormous loads carried by Turkish porters, and their capabilities in this respect prove, if any proof indeed be wanting, how much sobriety and habits of rigid temperance add to the physical powers of man. When the article to be transported is exceedingly heavy, it is suspended by ropes to poles, of which the ends rest upon the shoulders of two men, similar to what is seen in the ancient paintings found in the catacombs of Rome.

Upon our return we were induced by curiosity to enter a Turkish eating-house. The chief article of food is pilaff, or boiled rice and mutton, which is much finer flavoured than any I ever tasted in America. Ascending a high platform, we crossed our legs with becoming gravity, and had the pleasure of seeing our dinner cooked before our eyes. The mutton is cut up into small pieces of the size of a quarter of a dollar. A spit, not much larger than a darning needle, is thrust through a dozen of these bits; and



when the required number is prepared, the spits are placed over a charcoal fire. They are roasted in this way very expeditiously. A soft, blackish cake of rye, previously browned, is placed upon a large tinned plate of copper; melted grease, with finely chopped herbs, is poured over the cake, and the miniature mutton-chops, or *kebaubs*, are scraped off upon the copper; over the whole is poured a quantity of sour milk; and the dish is then prepared for eating. It was placed upon a small stool, about six inches high, before us; and as knives or forks were, of course, out of the question, we ate with our fingers, after the fashion of the ancient Romans. We found the kebaub to be a most savoury dish; and, notwithstanding the absence of forks, we contrived to make a hearty meal. Water was afterward presented, with towels and soap, to wash our hands and beards; and a large goblet of clear iced water concluded the repast.

## CHAPTER IX.

**The Fire at Pera—Turkish Fire-engine—Firemen—English Palace—The Ministers' personal Losses—Anecdotes of the Sufferers—Destructive Fires not peculiar to Turkey—Causes, wooden Buildings—Carelessness about Fire—Humanity of the Sultan—Ascend the Bosphorus—Its Name—Birds—Buyukdery—A Palace—Its various Occupants—A Circassian Lady.**

A FEW days since I ascended the narrow, steep, and break-neck lane which leads from Galata, to visit the scene of the late destructive fire at Pera. It broke out at ten o'clock in the morning, behind Pera, and at the foot of the hill upon which this suburb stands, and lasted until six in the afternoon, when, the wind dying away, it ceased of itself; having in that space of time swept over two square miles, and destroyed 10,000 houses, and property estimated to be worth eight millions of dollars. An English gentleman, who was an eyewitness and a sufferer, assured me that nothing surprised him more than the activity of the Turks on this occasion; but that, apparently, no human efforts could have been of any avail. Indeed, when we afterward saw the machines used by the Turks to extinguish fires, we were not surprised at the feeble resistance which they could oppose to the progress of the devouring element. The engines, in fact, are not larger than those employed with us to water our gardens. They have but a single chamber, which is about eight inches long by three or four in diameter: they are carried readily about by hand, and, in fact, seem far better calculated to nourish than to quench a flame. The tulumbagees, or firemen, are selected for their great personal strength and activity. They are naked to the waist, and their heads are protected by a broad copper cap. In this state they will rush into the midst of flames,

and work with the energy of demons. Our companion assured us that he saw a party of these tulumbagees thus employed, while another party were playing upon them to keep them cool, and preserve them from the scorching heat. The seraiskier with the principal high dignitaries of state were present on this occasion, directing the operations of the firemen; and when they could do nothing else, they assisted personally in removing furniture from the burning buildings. This fact is mentioned, because I have since seen statements in some of the European newspapers, that the Turks manifested not merely their characteristic indifference, but even a savage joy, at the destruction of so much European property. I cannot well understand why they should have evinced any pleasure on this occasion, for independent of mosques, colleges, and other public buildings, nearly every house, except those belonging to the foreign ambassadors, was Turkish property. That many ruffians, who are to be found in all large cities, displayed a savage and ferocious exultation cannot be questioned, any more than that robberies of the most daring kind were also perpetrated during this distressing period. In these robberies the Maltese and Greeks of the Ionian Islands were the most conspicuous. We conversed freely with many of the Frank sufferers; and they assured us that in no instance had a single article been lost which they had intrusted to the care of a Turkish porter.

Many of the palaces of the foreign ministers, judging from the size and extent of the walls which were left standing among the smouldering ruins, must have been extensive and costly structures. Over the door of one of these princely-looking mansions we noticed a marble tablet with this inscription :

*Mariæ et Joseph protectoribus*

*Domus et omnia credidit.*

Anno 1807.

*Fridericus Chirico.*

But neither Joseph nor Mary appears to have assumed the guardianship ; for the house and its contents had shared the common fate of its neighbours. The destruction of the English palace (built by Lord Elgin, of Parthenon memory) was unexpected, as it stood far removed from any other building. It was situated in the midst of a garden as extensive as the Washington Parade-ground, and this was surrounded by stone-walls twenty feet high. Trusting to its apparent security, much property had been conveyed there ; and many of the neighbours in the streets adjacent to the walls had thrown their furniture from their windows into this garden for safety. But the flames flew over the garden with the speed of the wind, and in the course of a few minutes the palace was enveloped in flames, although a hundred men had been previously engaged in keeping various parts of the building wet, as a precautionary measure. The private loss of the English minister Gordon is said to have amounted to nearly \$20,000, chiefly in the diamonds and jewels of his various orders. When I heard his losses regretted in society, I could not but compare them with those of my excellent friend Goodel, who, independent of the total destruction of his furniture and clothing, was in a few minutes deprived of his valuable library ; of manuscripts which had cost him the labour of years, and which never could be replaced. He had just completed an Armeno-Turkish dictionary and grammar, which would have proved invaluable to the oriental student ; these also shared the same fate.

As we passed through the choked streets and over the still hot and smoking ruins, the walls of a house which had escaped the general conflagration of that day were pointed out. The owner congratulated himself upon his singular good fortune ; but upon opening the front door on the following day the whole interior was discovered to be on fire. Owing to the want of sufficient air, the fire had made slow progress ; but upon opening the door, the whole burst forth

into flame, and the house was burnt to the ground. Many anecdotes were detailed which illustrated the total want of self-possession, which is but too frequently exhibited in seasons of sudden and general calamity. A poor widow, who had buried her husband and three children a few weeks previous, was observed to be busily engaged in throwing all her furniture into a deep well. When the flames finally drove her from the house, she was seen with her only child in one arm and a large bundle in the other. To the horror of the spectators, she deliberately threw the child into the well, and ran off hurriedly with the bundle.

It has been customary with travellers to advert to the frequency of fires at Constantinople, and to draw from it inferences unfavourable to the Turkish character. It cannot be denied that fires often occur, and when they take place, they must necessarily be of a very destructive character. A Frank resident of Constantinople during the last ten years assured me that he had kept a register of the number of fires, and of their extent; and that up to the present time almost every private house in the suburbs of Pera, Galata, and Fundukli, had been burnt to the ground. But are such fires peculiar to Turkey? In the south of France a town was so completely destroyed, three years since, that not a single house was left standing; and to come nearer home, had we not in New-York 131 different fires in less than a year? Who can forget the destructive fires of Savannah, or the still more disastrous fate of Fayetteville? We have already alluded to the insufficiency of the means at Constantinople to extinguish fires: let us examine the causes which occasion their frequent occurrence. All travellers agree in stating that popular discontents are invariably accompanied by extensive and repeated conflagrations. This is undoubtedly true; although fires from this cause are not so common at present as they were during the bloody reign of the Janizaries. It is only necessary to see the narrow streets, the ordinary style of building,

and the mode of living and customs of the inhabitants, to account for the extent and frequency of fires in this place. The streets are rarely more than twenty feet wide; and the sultan, absolute as he is, would find much resistance in any attempt he should make to enlarge them. One of the tenures by which real estate is held in this country is called Vahkoof. By this, property is left to the legal heirs, and when these are finally extinct it necessarily falls into the hands of the church. It may readily be imagined that such property is considered sacred, and, of course, cannot be interfered with or taken away. In this particular, the commander of the faithful, the descendant of the prophet, and the absolute lord and master of the lives of millions of his fellow-beings, has not as much authority as the corporation of the city of New-York. If, however, he was really anxious to enlarge the streets, he might, one would suppose, stretch his power a little; and, whenever a fire occurred, order the streets to be made straight and enlarged. The mosques, tekkays, and a few other public buildings are constructed of stone; but their private dwellings, and even the palaces of the sultan, are of wood. Any other style of building is considered by the Turks as a presumptuous attempt to raise imperishable dwellings for perishable man, and to imitate the temples erected for the worship of the Deity. Europeans, however, are permitted to build according to their own fancy. It will readily be conceived that houses built of such combustible materials must afford excellent fuel for a conflagration; and the only wonder is, that when it has once fairly commenced, how it should ever stop. It is, however, satisfactory to know that buildings of this kind are of small pecuniary value, and can readily be replaced. Indeed, we remarked that the work of restoration had already commenced, and houses were running up in all directions with a rapidity which would have even excited the astonishment of our New-York job-builders. It was not uncommon to see a house framed, the

roof on, the garret floored, and occupied by a family while the carpenters and masons were hammering and plastering the floors and walls below.\*

Another cause of the frequency of fires is to be found in the private habits, not only of the Turks, but of their imitators the Greeks and Armenians. We allude to their charcoal fires, which are carelessly carried about the house in every direction, and to their constant practice of smoking. Carpenters, cabinet-makers, &c. may be seen daily smoking in their workshops, and knocking out the fire with the utmost nonchalance among the shavings and other combustible materials with which they are surrounded. In their own dwellings the fire is thus carelessly scattered about from their eternal pipes, either upon the board floor, or the more dangerous mat which covers it; and in the coffee and other public houses, the floors are so marked with these burnt holes, that at a distance they somewhat resemble what is termed arabesque in architectural drawing. It is difficult to say whether this carelessness as to consequences results from the habitual indifference imputed to the Turks, or to the apathy which is said to accompany the immoderate use of tobacco.

In a conflagration where 10,000 houses were destroyed, and 80,000 persons turned into the streets, there must necessarily have been much suffering, but we did not learn that more than four or five lives were lost. The Turk suffers but little by a fire. His wardrobe is carried on his back, and a large chest contains all his moveables, consisting of a few amber-headed pipes, an oke or two of tobacco, and perhaps the same quantity of coffee. If he saves this his loss is nothing, except the rent of the house, which is

\* The Turkish word *ev* is applied to a private building, *konak*, or *khannay*, to a public edifice used by the government, and *serai* to a palace of the sultan. Hence we have the barbarous Levantine word *seraglio*, which has been foisted into our language. The French have with more propriety adopted nearly the original word.

always paid in advance. The fire luckily occurred in the day-time, and during a warm and pleasant season of the year. The sultan immediately caused 100,000 piastres to be distributed, and issued a firman in which he enjoined upon his subjects to receive into their houses, and to treat with kindness, all the sufferers by the fire, whether Greek, Frank, Armenian, or Jew. He likewise assigned for their immediate accommodation the large barrack in the neighbourhood of Pera, which is capable of holding 7000 men; ordered provisions to be distributed, and furnished tents to such as were still without shelter. We saw hundreds of these tents erected over the ashes of their former dwellings, and the inhabitants raking among the ashes and composedly straightening the nails which are to serve in the construction of a new dwelling.

The almost total absence of any thing in the shape of decent lodgings compelled us to search elsewhere for accommodations. The village of Buyukdery on the Bosphorus, the summer retreat of the ambassadors and of many Frank families, distant fourteen miles from the city, was pointed out to us as a convenient and desirable residence. We accordingly engaged a two-oared caïk and ascended the Bosphorus. So much has been written, and so graphically has it been described, by others, that I may be excused from what would only be a repetition of their descriptions. The Bosphorus is about twenty miles in length and a mile in breadth, and receives in its course about thirty inconsiderable streams. At one point it narrows to less than a mile. It is full of historic interest, for it has witnessed the assembled armies of Darius, the celebrated retreat of Xenophon, the armed mob of phrensied crusaders rushing by thousands to the Holy Land, and finally the desperate legions of Mohammed the Second making at this spot his victorious entry into Europe. Throughout its whole extent it winds between high mountains, which descend occasionally in graceful slopes, and often form wild and picturesque



bluffs and promontories. These are covered in continual succession by villages, palaces, and country villas, sometimes overhanging the abrupt cliffs, but more commonly lining the brink of the stream. We have attempted to convey in the accompanying sketch an idea of the usual style of building in Turkey, by a representation of the country-houses which ornament the banks of the Bosphorus.



Turkish country-houses on the Bosphorus.

Through the stone arches caiques pass into the inner court of the houses, where the inhabitants disembark without subjecting themselves to the observation of prying neighbours. In this particular they display the same taste with the ancient Romans. The apertures in the latticed windows serve the purpose of peep-holes; when it is wished to examine with more distinctness passing objects. The following is a list of the chief villages and remarkable places along the course of the Bosphorus, commencing with the Asiatic side opposite Constantinople: 1. Scutari; 2. Istavros; 3. Kooskoonjook; 4. Beglar Beg; 5. Cheugel Keui; 6. Vanikeui; 7. Kandellee; 8. Anadol Hissar; 9. Korfez; 10. Kanlijar; 11. Choobooklee; 12. Jujeer Keui; 13. Beg Koz; 14. Yallikeui; 15. Hooncair iscalessee; 16. Madjah (a fort); 17. Anadol Kavak; 18. Philboornoo; 19. Boreas

Liman; 20. Anadol phaneraki (lighthouse). On the European side, after leaving Constantinople, we pass, 1. Galata; 2. Tophannah; 3. Foondooklee; 4. Kabatash; 5. Dolmabatchi; 6. Beshiktash; 7. Kooloodjaly; 8. Cherajoon yalisy; 9. Orta Keui; 10. Deftardar Boornoo; 11. Kooroochesmeh; 12. Arnoot Keui; 13. Bebek; 14. Kaiyalah (cemetery); 15. Roomeli Hissar; 16. Sheytan Akoonteseh (Devil's Current); 17. Balta Liman; 18. Boyagi Keui; 19. Ameergan Ogloo; 20. Tokmah Boornoo; 21. Isthénia; 22. Selvi Boornoo; 23. Yeni Keui; 24. Kalender; 25. Therapia; 26. Buyukdery; 27. Sarraayah; 28. Yeni Mahalli; 29. Roomeli Kavak; 30. Büyük Liman; 31. Keribehek; 32. Roomeli Phaneraki, or lighthouse.

The waters were covered by myriads of sea-fowl, which, as they are undisturbed by the Turks, exhibited no signs of fear on our approach. Indeed, they were so entirely free from alarm, that they would merely move out of the reach of the oars, without rising from the water. Considerations of policy have undoubtedly had their influence in preventing these birds from being disturbed, for they perform a useful part as scavengers, in removing the animal and vegetable matter which must necessarily be daily discharged from a large city. I have, however, already had opportunities of witnessing the kindness universally manifested by the Turks towards the brute creation. It is not an uncommon thing to see open boats in the Golden Horn loaded with grain, and literally covered with flocks of ringdoves feeding undisturbed. Besides these water-birds, there are others, which are constantly on the wing, and hence termed by the Turks *Yengwan*, which the Franks have translated into "ames damnés," in allusion to their perpetual restlessness.\*

In some parts of the channel the current runs with so much rapidity, that we were obliged to approach the shore, which is here lined by a continuous quay, and accept the

\* A species of *Pediceps*.

assistance of persons who are in readiness to tow the boats along. This naturally suggested an explanation of the name Bosphorus, which has frequently exercised the critical acumen of etymologists.\* I had previously noticed oxen and other cattle employed to tow small vessels around the point against the stream, and this is a more probable origin of the word than the usual explanation, which purports that oxen were transported across the stream. Some idea may be formed of the activity of the caïkgees or boatmen, from the fact that although they had to contend against a four-knot current, and in some places even more, yet we accomplished the fourteen miles in very little more than three hours.

Buyukdery is a European colony. It lies very prettily along the borders of a large bay formed by one of the sinuosities of the Bosphorus. It looks out upon the Black Sea, from whence it is six miles distant, and from the prevailing style of architecture, it might readily be taken for an Italian marine villa. It is inhabited chiefly by foreign ministers, and the various bobs to the tail of the diplomatic kite in the shape of *jeunes de langues*, dragomen, secretaries, aide interprètes, &c. &c. Since the fire at Pera, the ministers have made this their permanent residence; and the same formality, the same insipidity, and the same dull round of etiquette, varied by ombres chinoises and écarté, which formerly characterized Pera, is said to have been transplanted to Buyukdery. The occupations of its inhabitants have been concisely described by a lively French writer. "Souvent on s'observe ou plutôt on s'épie. Après

\* "It was called Bosphorus, for that oxen were accustomed to swim from one side to the other, or, as the poets will have it, from the passage of the metamorphosed Io."—*Sandys*. According to Pliny (lib. iv.) *bubus meabilis transitu, unde nomen*. "Oxen can easily swim across, whence the name." See also the commentators upon Apollonius Rhodius, and Hesychius in voce *πρωτοβαλ*.

s'être mutuellement fatigué d'intrigues, de delations, on s'isole, on se renferme."

We succeeded in obtaining lodgings; and whatever may have been the minor vexations or inconveniences which we suffered in our new abode, they were certainly mitigated in the feeling that we were actually living in a palace. I have undoubtedly fared better in a German posthouse, a French auberge, or an English tavern, but then these were very common, everyday affairs, whereas a palace, to an American ear at least, conveys the idea of something very magnificent and ethereal. Our palace is delightfully situated on the water's edge, and from the terrace we may amuse ourselves with angling. The large court is filled with orange, lemon, and rose trees, and that universal favourite of the Turk, the oleander, which here grows to the height of fifteen or twenty feet, and bears exposure to the open air during the whole winter. Connected with this is a garden of about ten acres, beautifully laid out in walks shaded by hornbeam and myrtles, the whole forming a succession of terraces, from the uppermost of which we look over our palace and enjoy a superb view of the Bosphorus. In the evening the bushes and groves resound with the notes of the nightingale, which gives a poetic character to the scene. After all, however, the merits of the nightingale are much overrated, and not worthy of being mentioned in the same day with our mocking-bird. Its notes consist of a low twitter, which interests one merely because it is heard in the evening, when the rest of animated nature is hushed in repose. Even then it is not half so effective as the shrill scream of our night-hawk as he careers high in the air, or the phantom-like, unearthly cry of our whippoorwill.\* The palace is a large and lofty

\* Many attempts have been made to introduce the nightingale into the United States, but hitherto with little success, on account of the difficulty of supporting them on the passage. The following was communicated to me by a foreign minister at Constantinople, as having been successfully used on several long voyages :—

building, built indeed of wood, but containing within spacious halls paved with marble, and a magnificent staircase leading to a lofty reception-room. Exteriorly it looks like a huge pile of black boards, but within every thing bears witness to the taste and magnificence of its former owners. The gardens, too, which I have already alluded to, show traces of former splendour in the shape of marble fountains, &c., which are now nearly obliterated. The history of this palace is one of the many episodes in the bloody annals of the Greek revolution. Its proprietor was a Greek prince, who was decapitated during that revolution, and whose estates were confiscated. His children fled to Russia, where they were protected and supported by that government. On the return of peace, two of the daughters came to Constantinople, and presented a petition to the sultan for the restoration of this property. This petition was presented in person to the sultan on his way to the mosque, and was immediately granted. It is now occupied as a lodging-house by several families, and offers a fair sample of a congress from all parts of the globe. We have, for example, representatives of the following nations and tribes: American, Irish, Maltese, French, German, Hungarian, Greek, Armenian, Turk, Russian, and Circassian; and sixteen languages and dialects are daily spoken, to wit: English, Hebrew, Greek, Armenian, Turkish, Persian, Russian, Arabic, Slavonic, German, Illyric, French, Italian, Latin, Maltese, Hungarian, Portuguese, and Spanish. Among our fellow-lodgers our curiosity has been much excited by

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Take a slice of beef, two pounds; pease and sweet almonds, each one pound; saffron in powder, a dram and a half; twelve fresh eggs. Pound, sift, and grind the pease. Peel the almonds, after soaking in warm water, and then pound them fine. Infuse the saffron one hour in a glass of boiling water. Mix the whole, and make small round balls, which are to be baked in an oven or before a fire. When well done, they should have the consistency of biscuits. They are to be well crumbled before giving them to the bird.

a Circassian lady, the widow of a Russian officer. She has already reached that period of life quaintly termed by the French as *entre deux ages*, and when I state that to regular features she added a brilliant complexion, my readers will understand that she was handsome, although not in the very eminent degree which we have been accustomed to attribute to the Circassian fair. Scores of handsomer women might easily be selected from any village in our own country, although possibly they might not rival our Circassian acquaintance in gracefulness or ease of manner.

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## CHAPTER X.

Foondooksoo—A Russian Attaché—A Turkish Concert—The celebrated Plane-tree—Crusaders—Fishing on the Bosphorus—Sword-fish and Tunny—Making Kafe—Agiasma, or Holy Fountain—Turks adopt many Greek Superstitions—Therapeia—Ypsilanti—Sir Henry Willock.

OUR walks lead us frequently to a charming spot about two miles from the village. It is called Foondooksoo, or filbert-water, from the number of filbert-trees which surround a marble reservoir filled with water by conduits from the neighbouring hills. Passing through the village of Sari Yeri which adjoins Buyukdery, our road lay through an ancient Turkish burying-ground. Foondooksoo is one of those numerous delicious retreats so common in Turkey which owe their origin to Mussulman piety. A pleasant, retired spot is selected, in most cases looking out upon some lovely scene, although this is not always attended to. A large tank or reservoir is formed, and its borders planted with trees and flowering shrubs; a small wooden box is erected for the accommodation of a vender of coffee, who

at the same time furnishes pipes and tobacco to the visitors ; and a marble slab, with quotations from the Koran sculptured upon it, indicates the purposes for which it was raised. At this place we met a young Parisian-looking dandy, who, after a careful survey of our persons, kindly condescended to introduce himself to our acquaintance. He proved to be an attaché to the Russian embassy, and his French was so interlarded with Turkish words, that we supposed him to be in training for a consulate. He kindly made us acquainted with all the petty scandal of Buyukdery, and in a few minutes we learned how many oars were allowed to a chargé, and how many to a minister ; the different strokes of a bell to announce the grade of a visiter ; and the last representation of the ombre chinoises at the Austrian internuncio's. Amid all this trifling there was a vein of good feeling, for when we alluded to Polish affairs he expressed his admiration of their gallant conduct, and his hopes for their ultimate success. This from a Russian, and an employé of the Russian government, was not a little surprising, but we had afterward frequent opportunities of hearing similar sentiments openly expressed by Russians in favour of the Polish cause.

While chatting with our new acquaintance, the sound of musical instruments, with a rich nasal twang by way of accompaniment, was heard on the hill above us. Casting our eyes upwards we saw a procession of musicians descending the hill, followed by a portly-looking Turkish officer, who had been amusing himself in this philharmonic manner while strolling over the neighbouring hills. The band consisted of a violin and guitar, with a singer, whose monotonous nasal drawl was only interrupted by an occasional discordant yell like that of a North American Indian. I had previously been in doubt whether to assign to a Scotch bagpipe or to a knife screaming over a China plate the pre-eminence in torture, but it became evident that the palm must be awarded to this Greek nightingale and his

instrumental associates. The Turkish officer took his seat on the edge of the basin; a narghilay, or water-pipe, was placed in his hands; and while his attendants continued their sweet strains, he sat, apparently unconscious of their presence, looking steadfastly into the water, reminding us of a certain bird which may be seen for hours on the edge of a pond watching the motions of the scaly tribe beneath the surface.

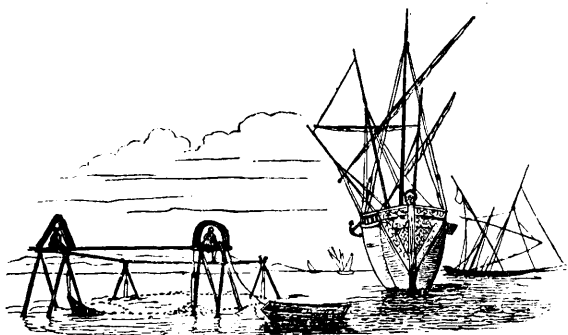
South of Buyukdery is the broad valley or plain which furnishes the name to the village. Buyukdery, or great valley, which is a translation of the ancient Greek name *Βαθυ καλπος*, or beautiful field, is also occasionally used. One of its most conspicuous ornaments is a plane-tree (*P. orientalis*) which I should suppose to be unequalled for size in the world. It is so large that the grand vizier pitched his tent within it last year, when he reviewed the troops stationed in and around the metropolis. It can, however, scarcely be said to be one tree, although it springs from one common root. Eight distinct stems or trunks are arranged in a circle, and include a space of about 150 feet in circumference. There were formerly six others, which nearly completed the circle, but these have so entirely disappeared as scarcely to leave a trace of their former existence.

This beautiful plain is memorable as the spot upon which the crusaders under Godfrey de Bouillon encamped, and ancient travellers relate that in their time they found inscriptions and monuments of the crusaders dated 1096. Not a single one of these is now to be found, although, in the vestiges left by the tents of the grand vizier, I endeavoured to persuade myself that I could detect the traces of the crusaders. It was here, too, that those mutinous troops assembled in 1807 under Kachaya Ogloo, which succeeded in deposing and putting to death the virtuous and wise Sultan Selim. This valley looks out upon the Bosphorus, and is surrounded by hills partly covered by vines and partly by forest-trees. Numerous winding footpaths lead



along these slopes, and at different points present a succession of almost fairy scenes.

Another delightful walk is from this valley along the shores of the Bosphorus to the adjoining village of Therapeia. Passing a new hotel, the speculation of an Italian macaroni-maker, where the traveller may have any thing he calls for except decent food or a comfortable bed, the road winds along the bay nearly at the water's edge.



A Turkish vessel, and taking fish on the Bosphorus.

Here one may witness the operation of taking fish, which is effected in the following manner. One or more stout posts are thrust into the water at the distance of one or two hundred feet from the shore. Upon this post, at the height of ten or fifteen feet above the water, a rude shed contains a person whose business it is to announce the appearance of fish to his comrades on shore. A quadrangular space, whose limits are defined by four posts, is enclosed by nets, and the moment a fish appears within it he is inevitably captured. These fishing stations are surrounded by numerous birds, who watch the capture of the fish and frequently deprive the fisherman of his prey. In rough weather they spread a few drops of oil on the surface, which permits them to see clearly to a great depth. I was aware that oil would calm the surface of the sea, but until

recently I did not know that it rendered objects more distinct beneath the surface. A trinket of some value had been dropped out of one of the upper windows of our palace into the Bosphorus, which at this place was ten or twelve feet deep. It was so small that dragging for it would have been perfectly fruitless ; and it was accordingly given up for lost, when one of the servants proposed to drop a little oil on the surface. This was acceded to, with, however, but faint hopes of success. To our astonishment the trinket immediately appeared in sight, and was eventually recovered.

The Bosphorus, like the Hellespont, has in all ages been celebrated for the excellence and variety of its fish. Indeed, it could scarcely be otherwise, when we recollect its position as the embouchure of the Black Sea and the Sea of Azof. There is scarcely a month in the year in which the Bosphorus is not crowded with shoals of fish, either pursuing each other for food, or performing their periodical migrations. Among these the tunny (*Scomber thynnus*) and the sword-fish (*Xiphias gladius*) are the most numerous, and are a firm and excellent article of food. They are both taken in nets. The name pelamide is applied to the tunny, although it belongs in fact to another species with stripes on its sides (*Thynnus pelamys*). The most conspicuous of all the inhabitants of the Bosphorus are porpoises (*Phocena vulgaris*), who, availing themselves of the general amnesty accorded to the brute creation, or perhaps owing their safety to some popular superstition, may be seen at all times tumbling about among the crowds of boats which cover the Bosphorus with entire fearlessness. Shoals, too, of smaller fry infest the shores, and the most frequent spectacle is groups of men, women, and children, with tiny hooks and lines, angling for minnows. The sultan himself is said to be fond of this amusement ; and at Beshik Tash,\* one of his palaces, which resembles

\* *Beshik Tash*, rocking stone.

a Persian kiosk, and is built mostly of blue porcelain, he has a room devoted to this purpose. A trap-door opens in the centre of an apartment over the water, where he can and does amuse his idle hours without being observed by his subjects.

Passing Kiretch Boornoo, or Limestone Cape, we stopped under a clump of majestic trees to refresh ourselves with coffee. The grateful shade, the fountain, and the reservoir invited us to rest, while the fervent heat was here entirely dispelled by the cool breezes from the Black Sea, which faces this charming spot. Crowds of Turks, Greeks, and Armenians were here sipping their coffee, and making *kafe*, as it is termed. This word implies a frolic, or what we would perhaps express by the term of holyday-party. A fort near this was built in 1807, under the direction of a French engineer, to defend the anchorage in Buyukdery Bay. After devoting some time to the enjoyment of the surrounding scene, we resumed our walk along the sea-shore, and passed a fountain arched over in the side hill. This fountain, like many others I have noticed in Turkey, is called by the Greeks *Agiasma*, or *Aiasma*, and perpetuates the memory of an ancient classical superstition. The Greeks were formerly in the habit of imputing marvellous properties to any fountains whose waters were clear and cold; and Horace, in his ode ad Fontem Blandusiæ, has perpetuated the memory of one of this kind. Sacrifices were offered up to the presiding deity of the fountain, the genius loci, and the modern Greek, ingrafting his crude notions of Christianity upon his ancient pagan idolatry, still performs the same rites. To each of these fountains some monstrous legend is attached; and these are firmly believed by the crowds which flock round them upon the anniversary of certain saints, who merely occupy the niches formerly held by their demigods and heroes. The enthusiasm of the Greeks on such occasions has infected the sober Turks themselves; for although they abhor the

Greeks and their religion, yet they admit their saints to have been great and good men, and consequently suppose their intercession to be valuable in the other world. We heard the other day a laughable illustration of this superstition, if indeed there can be any thing laughable in such gross and humiliating ignorance. It is the custom among the Greek fishermen, on the anniversary of a certain saint (I believe St. Demetri), to form a procession, walk into the water, and perform many unmeaning mummeries, to propitiate his saintship, and implore his aid and blessing for luck during the ensuing year. When the revolution broke out in Greece, the Greek inhabitants of the capital and its vicinity naturally abstained from all public exhibitions, and this particular ceremony was of course omitted. It so happened, however, that the fishery was extremely unproductive during the ensuing season, and the Turkish fishermen were as unfortunate as the Greeks. They attributed it to the neglect, on the part of the Greeks, to propitiate their patron-saint, and at the next anniversary actually compelled them to resume their customary processions, and St. Demetri received on that occasion the prayers of many a pious Turkish fisherman.

Before we entered the village, we passed the palaces at present occupied by the French and English ambassadors. That of the French ambassador was a gift from the sultan. It formerly belonged to the brave but unfortunate Ypsilanti; and its extensive gardens, which are laid out with great taste, owe many of their decorations to that illustrious man. The Prince Morousi formerly owned the palace now occupied by the English minister. Sir Robert Gordon, a relative of the Earl of Aberdeen, holds at present this station; but, as he gives out that he wishes to return to England for the benefit of his health, it is probable that he has been recalled, and a successor appointed in his place. The change in the ministry, and the accession to office of a new set of aristocrats, must necessarily bring up numerous claimants

for the "spoils of victory."\* It is recorded of Sir Robert, by his countrymen, that during his residence here he was never known to speak affably to a single human being, which of course would lead one to form a tolerable estimate of his social qualities, and also of the regret with which his departure must be witnessed. The French minister is an inoffensive invalid, of whom nobody knows any harm, which, in the East, and among Franks, is no small praise. Therapeia is a dirty little Greek village, prettily situated on a small bay, and is a favourite residence of many Europeans; there we met, and were introduced to, Sir Henry Willock, who has been for many years a public functionary in Persia. His title was that of resident, which, if I am not misinformed, implies that he was appointed by the English East India Company. Bating English stiffness, we found him a communicative and well-informed man, and his long residence among the Persians had furnished him with a fund of anecdotes, which he detailed with true oriental gravity.

\* This was afterward confirmed by the appointment of a Mr. Mandeville, and subsequently of Stratford Canning.

## CHAPTER XI.

Belgrade—Thracian Horses—Aqueducts of Batchikeni—Great Consumption of Water by the Turks—Threshing in the Ancient Manner—Forest of Belgrade—Cholera—Lady Montagu—Wolves—Bulgarians—Their primitive Occupations—Their Virtues.

**BELGRADE** is another object of attraction to the stranger, and we determined to pay it a visit. Horses were accordingly procured, and as this was our first feat in horsemanship, it may be requisite to descend to particulars. It will be recollected that the country we are now in was formerly called Thrace, famous throughout all antiquity for its horses and herds. The former, however, have strangely degenerated, if the animals which we bestrode are taken as specimens of the Thracian breed. The Turkish saddle is a huge cumbrous-looking concern, with projections before and behind like those used by cavalry. The stirrup consists of a broad plate of iron, as long as the foot, and its sharp edges serve the purpose of spurs. Ali, our Turkish guide, accompanied us, to show the way and attend the horses. Leaving the paved and dirty lanes of our village, we were soon scampering across the lovely valley already described, over a paved road about twelve feet wide, which extended rather more than two miles into the country. The road was lined on both sides with shrubs, among which our blackberry was the most common; and clouds of blackbirds passed over us, followed by numerous Frank sportsmen.

Ascending the hills, we soon reached one of the aqueducts, which furnishes the suburbs of Perä and Galata with water. It is in the midst of a complete solitude; and this gigantic work of man, although of important daily utility,

comes upon the mind with more of that religious awe than we feel at surveying some magnificent but idle monument of antiquity. This aqueduct, which takes its name from a neighbouring village, Batchai Keui, is scarcely more than one hundred years old. It consists of twenty arches, and is four hundred feet in length, and eighty feet high. In the centre the road passes under another arch, beneath the principal row. The aqueduct is built of a coarse vesicular limestone, and is constructed in a substantial and workman-like manner. Nothing is more common than to hear it asserted that the ancients were unacquainted with the first principles of hydrostatics; that they did not know that water would rise to its own level, and consequently that aqueducts were employed instead of close pipes or conduits. However true this may have been of the civilized Romans or the polished Greeks, it will hereafter be shown that the Turks have displayed a thorough acquaintance with the subject. They derived it probably from the Arabians, traces of whose hydraulic labours may be seen in Spain to this day. This aqueduct is sixteen miles from Pera, and derives its waters from reservoirs in the mountains, several miles farther. The top is covered with marble slabs, and the accidental displacement of one of these gave us an opportunity of ascertaining the quantity of water which daily passes through. It was fifteen inches wide by eighteen inches in depth, and had a velocity of about six feet per second. This would give a supply of about six million gallons of water in twenty-four hours. This great quantity is, however, not always sufficient for the wants of the suburbs; and during the dry season, I afterward saw water transported from Constantinople, and sold by the skin-full. When we recollect that the Turks drink nothing but water, and that great quantities are required for their daily religious exercises, it will readily be perceived that the supply must be prodigious for the wants of the metropolis. A French savant, Andreossi, attempted to form an idea of

the population of Constantinople from the daily consumption of water. I have never seen his calculations, but I presume that his estimate of the quantity used by each family must far exceed that of any other city in the world.

Looking through the arches down upon the valley, the eye rests upon a charming picture. The beautifully-wooded valley spreads out into a verdant plain at Buyukdery, beyond which is the silver Bosphorus, resembling our own Hudson, or rather a broad placid lake, bounded by the high hills of the Asiatic shore. To the south, the minarets of the capital may be faintly traced on the horizon. At a short distance from the aqueduct we passed through a dirty little Greek village, from whence the aqueduct derives its name. We stopped under a clump of lofty pines, whose horizontal branches afforded an ample and agreeable shade, to witness the operation of threshing, which is performed in the open air. The grain is laid on the ground in a large circle, and a flat wooden frame, slightly turned up in front, is drawn over it by a pair of horses. This rude sled is shod beneath with iron, and the driver sits upon it in order to increase its weight. It is curious to perceive in this arrangement the identical machine, *tribula*, in use among the Romans more than two thousand years ago, and employed in the same manner. But this was not the only vestige of antiquity which we noticed on the road. Near this threshing-floor, or *area*, we observed a brickkiln in which straw was used, as in the early Scripture times.

Shortly after leaving the village of Batchikeui we entered the forest of Belgrade. This immense forest is said to extend seventy-five miles along the Black Sea, terminating in Croatia. It consists chiefly of the chestnut, which here grows to an enormous size, and resembles so much our own forests, that my companion observed we should never be able to lose our way in it, for we should always find ourselves at home. It was formerly infested with robbers, but they have been extirpated, and it is now occupied by



wild boars and wolves. Parties are frequently made up from Constantinople to enjoy the boar-hunt.

At ten we reached the village of Belgrade, which is distant seven miles from Buyukdery. It was formerly the summer residence of the foreign ministers, but it is now shorn of all its glories by its rival Buyukdery. It is prettily situated on the slope of a hill, and a cool rivulet, the ancient *Hydraulis*, running through it, adds much to its beauty : but I looked in vain for that poetical scenery, or "the beauty and costume of the women which resemble the ideas of the ancient nymphs as given by poets and painters." We dismounted at the door of a miserable shed where no refreshment could be procured, except some execrable wine and equally detestable rum. A Greek papas, or priest, offered to conduct us to the house of a man who spoke Italian, and who served as the village Cicerone. We found him at home, but labouring under an attack of that disease which at this moment is spreading terror and dismay throughout civilized Europe. It had been brought on by eating green fruit and by exposure. The attack began yesterday, but after a copious bleeding he was much relieved, and was already convalescent. It seems to be a disease which requires vigorous treatment at the onset, when all the formidable symptoms disappear, and it becomes a slight and controllable malady.

Our first visit was to the house in which the gay and witty Lady Montagu composed some of her agreeable romances about Turkey. Some travellers assert that the house in which she resided was pulled down ; but I have the authority of a gentleman in Buyukdery that this is not the fact. He states that his father owned the identical house occupied by Lady Montagu, and that it is now in his possession. Fortified then by this assurance, we entered a spacious wooden house which is now undergoing repairs, and, after examining every room, laughed at our own simplicity in expecting to find, after such a lapse of time, any traces of the fair authoress. Her lively ladyship has been

often accused of painting manners and scenes rather highly, and Belgrade is an evidence against her. It is a shabby tumble-down village, notorious for completely baking in summer those who are merely broiled elsewhere; and instead of being "in view of the Black Sea," is surrounded by dense woods, which afford a complete obstacle to "the refreshment of cool breezes." It is very unhealthy, and is now only occupied by second-rate diplomats, such as drogomen and their dependants. Who would have expected to find an American palace imbosomed in the woods; and yet a large mansion bearing this imposing title was actually pointed out to us. Of its history or its owner we could learn nothing, except that it belonged to an American who lived there occasionally; no further information could be obtained, although we murdered no small quantity of Turkish, Greek, and Italian in the attempt, and we left Belgrade in utter ignorance of our mysterious countryman. The garden of a wealthy English merchant, Mr. Black, forms one of the attractions of the village: it is prettily laid out into pleasant shaded walks, ornamented with fountains overhung by silken roses (*mimosa arborea*), and numerous nightingales were chirping among the trees. The house was unoccupied, the garden neglected, and an air of stillness and solitude pervaded the spot. Our ride beneath a burning sun had prepared us to enjoy the cool shaded walks; and as we were in no mood for pensive meditation, we took the liberty of availing ourselves of a privilege which is generally conceded in all *show places* to travellers. Despatching the gardener in search of food, he quickly returned with eggs, coarse bread, a pitcher of wine, and a dish which we were puzzled to arrange under any of the known genera described by culinary authors. It resembled white putty in appearance and consistence, and was insipid to the taste. It is termed *tayrayah*, and is, in fact, the butter of this country. Belgrade has long been

celebrated for producing this equivocal representative of our butter in its utmost perfection.

From the concurrent testimony of all travellers, no people were so happy, and few in a more prosperous condition than the Bulgarians. Their fields supplied them with more than was requisite for their wants, and their industrious and peaceable habits rendered them the most contented and orderly Christian subjects of Turkey. It is as rare to hear of a Bulgarian having committed a crime in Turkey, as to hear of a Quaker being guilty of a misdemeanour in our own country. In an evil hour, the Muscovite pouring down from the Balkans over their plains excited them to revolt; and notwithstanding a solemn decree of the sultan, by which, at the last peace, they were assured of protection, and promised that no notice should be taken of their past behaviour, yet many thousands were induced to leave their fertile plains and follow the Russian army. Those who are still alive are by this time, doubtless, enjoying the benefit of Russian protection under the discipline of a drill sergeant's cane.

On the sides of several houses in this village we observed nailed the skins of wolves. These animals are, as I have before mentioned, common in the neighbouring woods; and to judge by the skins we saw, they are larger than our species. It is partly on their account that flocks of sheep and goats in this country require a shepherd to watch them continually. We saw several of these on the road, and their appearance naturally reminded us of the primitive occupation of man. These shepherds are chiefly Bulgarians: a simple-hearted and virtuous, but ignorant race, who occupy the lowest stations in Turkey. They are meanly dressed, and are easily recognised by their black sheepskin caps. The sound of a pipe attracted our attention; and upon examining the instrument, we found it to be a rude sort of double-flageolet, with six holes, and another near the end which served as the drone. It is not a mere

idle instrument to relieve the idle hours of the shepherd, but serves as a help to regulate or restrain the motions of the flock.\* Of this the shepherd convinced me by playing several notes, which appeared to be immediately understood and obeyed by his flock. I had supposed that the pastoral crook had long fallen into disuse, if indeed it had ever existed except in the fantastical brains of poets, or in its magnificent representative the golden sceptre of God's vicegerent at Rome. Judge of our surprise at finding it in the hands of these shepherds, a substantial instrument of wood and iron, and applied daily to very unpoetical purposes.

\* A passage in the Life of Haydn illustrates very pleasingly this sensibility on the part of sheep and goats to music.—“We were surrounded by a large flock of sheep which were leaving their fold to go to their pasture; one of our party took his flute out of his pocket, and saying, ‘I am going to turn Corydon, let us see whether the sheep will recognise their pastor,’ began to play. The sheep and goats, which were following each other towards the mountain with their heads hanging down, raised them at the first sounds of the flute; and all, with a general and hasty movement, turned to the side from whence the agreeable noise proceeded. Gradually they flocked round the musician, and listened with motionless attention. He ceased playing: still the sheep did not stir. The shepherd with his staff obliged those nearest to him to move on. They obeyed; but no sooner did the fluter begin again to play than his innocent auditors again returned to him. The shepherd, out of patience, pelted them with clods of earth, but not one of them would move. The fluter played with additional skill; the shepherd, exasperated, whistled, swore, and pelted the fleecy amateurs with stones. Such as were hit by them began to march, but others still refused to stir. At last the shepherd was obliged to entreat our Orpheus to cease his magical sounds. The sheep then moved off; but continued to stop at a distance as often as our friend resumed his instrument.”—*Vie de Haydn par Bombet.*

## CHAPTER XII.

Supply of Water under the Greek Emperors—Soo Naziri, or Chief of the Water Department—His Powers—Number of Fountains in Turkey—Bendts—Plan of one—Aqueducts of Mustapha, Constantine, Justinian—Presumed Quantity of Water furnished to the Capital—Tunnels—Soote-rays—Reservoirs—Superiority of Constantinople over New-York.

EVERY stranger is struck with the numerous contrivances around Constantinople for supplying it with pure and wholesome water. Belonging to a city in the United States which has long been distinguished for its nauseous and detestable water, and for the culpable negligence of its rulers on a subject of so much importance, no opportunity was neglected to obtain all the information in our power in regard to the hydraulic establishments in this neighbourhood. The result, however mortifying, must not be concealed, and we therefore state, that on a subject intimately connected, not only with the comfort, but with the health of the people, the commercial emporium of the United States is some centuries behind the metropolis of Turkey.

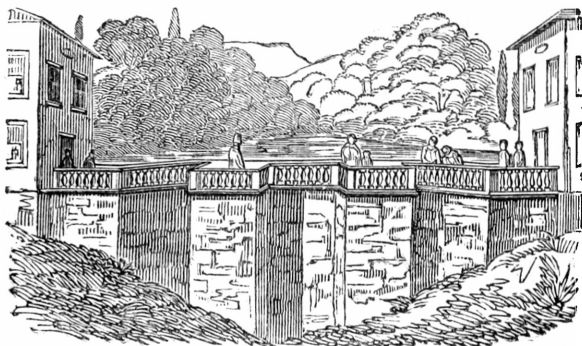
Under the Greek emperors, Constantinople was supplied with water by the means of aqueducts, and large reservoirs were established in different parts of the city. These latter, however, have now gone into disuse, as expensive and inadequate for the purposes intended. Under the present system, all the water-works about Constantinople are under the management of an officer, termed the soo naziri, or inspector of waters. It is his business to keep them in good repair, and he is responsible for any accidents which may obstruct or diminish the supply. As no time is to be lost to repair injuries, this officer is clothed with great power, and he compels every one to assist in restoring the line of

communication. This resembles the *corvée* of old France in some measure, but is much more oppressive ; for the *soo naziri* fines most rigorously all who dwell in the vicinity of any breach or injury unless they give immediate information of the disaster. So important are these water-courses considered that the sultans have always been in the habit of making annually a formal visit of inspection, which is accompanied with much ceremony, and ordering such improvements and alterations as are deemed necessary.

It is impossible to travel anywhere in the vicinity of Constantinople without being struck with the great pains taken by the Turks to treasure up every rill, or the minutest trickle from the face of the rocks. These are carefully collected in marble or brick reservoirs, and the surplus is conveyed by pipes to the main stream. In passing through sequestered dells, the traveller frequently comes suddenly upon one of these sculptured marble fountains, which adds just enough of ornament to embellish the rural scene. They are frequently decorated with inscriptions setting forth the greatness and goodness of Providence, and inviting the weary traveller to make due acknowledgments for the same. Unlike our civilized ostentation, the name of the benevolent constructor never appears on these sculptured stones. The quaint Turkish adage, which serves as a rule of conduct, is well exemplified in this as well as in many other instances ; “Do good and throw it into the sea ; if the fishes don’t know it, God will.”

Among the hills at various distances, from fifteen to twenty miles from the city, are constructed large artificial reservoirs. These are termed *bendts*, a word of Persian origin, and are built in the following manner : Advantage is taken of a natural situation, such as a narrow valley or gorge between two mountains, and a strong and substantial work of masonry is carried across, sufficiently high to give the water its required level. Four of these *bendts* were visited and examined, but there are several

others which we did not see. A description of one of the largest will give an idea of the manner in which they are constructed.



Turkish Bendt, or Reservoir.

A solid wall of marble masonry, eighty feet wide, and supported by two large buttresses, rises to the height of a hundred and thirty feet from the bottom of the valley. It is four hundred feet long, and the top is covered with large marble slabs of dazzling brilliancy. On the side next the reservoir, a substantial marble balustrade, three feet in height, gives a finish to this Cyclopean undertaking. A tall marble tablet indicates the date of its erection, or more probably of its repair or reconstruction. From the date, 1211, it appears to have been built about forty-six years ago. It is called the Validay Bendt, and is said to have been built by the mother of the reigning sultan. It is furnished with a waste gate, and, at a short distance below, the water from the reservoir is carried across a ravine by a short aqueduct. About two miles from this is another bendt, erected in 1163, which corresponds to the year 1749. This is also a magnificent work, although inferior in size to the preceding. They both supply the aqueduct of Batchikeui, which, as has already been stated, furnishes the suburbs of Pera and Galata with water. Beyond Belgrade are other

reservoirs which will be elsewhere noticed. These supply Constantinople proper, with water.

In order to convey a clear idea of the direction of these various hydraulic works, it may be advisable to follow each singly. Beyond Belgrade is a large bendt, which sends its waters into a basin already partially supplied from another reservoir. A mile farther on, the water is carried across two aqueducts, the larger of which is known as the aqueduct of Mustapha III. From this it is conveyed into the aqueduct of Justinian. This is twelve miles from Constantinople. It consists of two tiers of arches, each forty-two feet wide. The arches are four in number; the total length of the aqueduct, with its abutments, is seven hundred and twenty feet, and its greatest height a hundred and ten feet. A gallery pierces the square pillars, forming the first story, of arches, and allows a passage through its whole length. There are four small arches at each end of the first story, about twelve feet wide. The precise epoch of the construction of this aqueduct is not known, although it is commonly attributed to the Emperor Justinian II. This aqueduct receives also water from two others, the principal of which is known under the name of Solyman. This is sixteen hundred feet long, and eighty feet high, and consists of two stories of fifty arches each. It is a Turkish work. Another aqueduct also conveys water into that of Justinian, and is generally supposed to be of the age of Constantine. It is three stories high; the lowest tier consists of thirty-three arches fifteen feet wide, the second of twelve arches, and the uppermost of four. It is three hundred and fifty feet in length. All these magnificent and costly structures are intended for the supply of Constantinople alone, and we will now trace the course of the water. Leaving the aqueduct of Justinian, it follows the right bank of the Cydaris, and receiving in its course various tributary rivulets from the neighbouring hills, it enters within the walls of Constantinople near the *aygry kapoosi*, or crooked gate, whence



it is distributed over the city. It was impossible to ascertain the quantity of water furnished through this series of hydraulic works ; but, judging by comparison with that which supplies the suburbs, it cannot be less than fifteen millions of gallons within twenty-four hours.

We will now return to the aqueduct of Batchikeui, and follow the direction of its waters. These are carefully brought round the heads of the valleys in covered canals, in which there are at certain intervals sudden breaks or alterations in the level, which answer the double purpose of agitating the water in contact with air and of precipitating its impurities. It likewise affords fountains on the road for the use of cattle and weary travellers. When hills intervene, tunnels are boldly driven through, at the depth of fifty, eighty, and in some places a hundred feet. The course of these tunnels may be traced on the road between Pera and Buyukdery by numerous pits, which were about two hundred feet apart. These pits were convenient for giving air and light beneath, and also afforded a ready means of getting rid of the excavated earth and rocks. It is possible, that at the period when these tunnels were made, the pits were previously dug, in order to enable them to give the necessary direction and level to the subterranean passage. Branches from this main stream are continually thrown off to supply the villages, and the palaces of the sultan along the Bosphorus. Notwithstanding all these expensive works, it sometimes happens, after long droughts, that the supply becomes scanty in the suburbs ; and during my residence here, I have known water to be sold at Pera and Galata at from two to six cents the pailful. This, however, never occurs in the city itself, which is abundantly supplied at all seasons of the year.

Where a valley of great extent is to be crossed, the Turks have resorted to an ingenious contrivance, which I have nowhere seen clearly described, but which, from its simplicity and value, merits a more particular notice.

From the want of sufficient mechanical skill to manufacture water-pipes strong enough to bear the weight of a large column of water, they adopted the following plan: In the direction of the proposed water-channel, a number of square pillars are erected at certain short intervals. They are about five feet square, constructed of stone, and, slightly resembling pyramids, taper to the summit. They vary in height, according to the necessities of the case, from ten to fifty feet, and in some instances are even higher.



Sooteray, or substitute for Aqueduct.

They form a striking peculiarity in Turkish scenery, and it was some time before the principle upon which they were constructed was apparent. The water leaves the brow of a hill, and descending in earthen pipes rises in leaden or earthen ones, up one side of this pillar, to its former level, which must be, of course, the summit of the pillar, or *sooteray*, as it is called by the Turks.\* The water is here discharged into a stone basin as large as the top of the sooteray, and is discharged by another pipe, which descends along the opposite side of the pillar, enters the ground, advances to the next sooteray, which it ascends and descends in the same manner; and in this way the level of the water

\* This word is from the Turkish *sooteraysoo*, which means the levelling of the water, and expresses very well the object of the sooteray.

may be preserved for many miles over large ravines or plains, where an aqueduct would be, from its expensiveness, manifestly out of the question. In the city of Constantinople, the old ruinous aqueduct of Valens, which no longer conducts water in the usual manner, is converted into a series of sooterays, and permits one to examine their structure in detail. The stone basin on the summit is covered with an iron plate, to prevent the birds from injuring the water. This is connected by a hinge, and, upon lifting it up, the basin is found to be divided into two parts by a stone partition. Several holes are made in this partition near its upper edge. The water from the ascending pipe is allowed by this means to settle its foreign impurities, and the surface water, which is of course the most pure, flows through these apertures into the adjoining compartment, from whence it descends, and is carried to the next sooteray, where the same process is repeated. A number of projecting stones on the sides facilitate the ascent of the person who has charge of these sooterays, and whose business it is to remove the deposits from the water in the stone basins.

This ingenious hydraulic arrangement seems to possess advantages which might recommend its adoption elsewhere. As the pressure is thus divided among this series of syphons, the necessity for having very strong and costly pipes is obviated. As they are from three to five hundred yards apart, the cost is probably much less than by any plan which could be devised, where, in addition to the cost of a canal or series of pipes, we should be compelled to raise it again by the expensive agency of steam or some other costly apparatus. The frequent exposure of the water to air and light at the summit of these sooterays is another very important advantage which cannot be too strongly insisted upon; as it is now well known that nothing tends more to purify water than the presence of these two agents. The arrangement likewise of the basins on the top of the pillars

is well adapted for getting rid of much of the matters deposited from turbid waters. Lastly, to the descending pipe a small cock is attached near the ground, by which the flocks and herds of the adjoining villages and fields are furnished at all times with a copious supply of water.

On the heights of Pera there is a large reservoir, 200 feet square, built of the most solid and substantial masonry; from this reservoir the water is distributed through the suburbs of Fundukli, Pera, Galata, and Cassim Pacha.

After a deliberate survey of the various hydraulic contrivances for supplying Constantinople with water, one is at a loss to know which to admire most, the native good sense which pointed out the necessity and importance of furnishing the capital and its suburbs with pure and wholesome water, the ingenuity displayed in conquering almost invincible obstacles, or that wise and liberal economy which considered no expense too enormous, no sacrifices too great, in comparison with the health and comfort of the people. The various water-courses about Constantinople must exceed fifty miles in length, and the expenses of the various reservoirs and aqueducts could not have been less than fifty millions of dollars. With a single remark we shall conclude our observations on this subject. The city of New-York, with a population of more than 200,000 inhabitants, has been deliberating for years over the question—whether it is expedient to spend two millions of dollars for the purpose of introducing a copious supply of pure and wholesome water.

## CHAPTER XIII.

Visit towards an English Man-of-war—Hooncairis calessee—Imperial Tannery—Valonia—Style of building—Foreigners in the Turkish Service—Paper Manufactory—Woollen Cloth Manufactory—Valley—Turkish Women—Yaoort—Rahat Locoom.

THE English frigate *Acteon*, commanded by one of the numerous office-holding family of Lord Grey, is now anchored in the Bosphorus, opposite to *Buyukdery*. As she is one of a new class of vessels, and has all the most recent improvements in naval architecture, we were naturally desirous of paying her a visit. Upon coming alongside we were refused permission to see the ship, and were obliged to content ourselves with an inspection of her exterior. It struck us as rather whimsical, that the only two places in Turkey hitherto inaccessible to us should be the *seraglio* and an English man-of-war. The *Acteon* is a twenty-eight gun vessel, mounting 35 guns, and belongs to that class of vessels in the British service popularly known as jackass frigates; a description of ship which, according to many naval authorities, combines all the defects of the frigate and the sloop-of-war. The name is believed to have been conferred in compliment to the illustrious projector. Her outside planking is rather peculiar, and is put on in what is technically called anchor-stock fashion. She appeared to be quite as full-built as one of our newest corvettes, is doubtless a stout sea-boat, and, with the exception of speed, is well calculated for the purposes of war.

Invited by the appearance of a grove of majestic plane-trees in a valley on the Asiatic shore, we pulled away from the *Acteon*. We accidentally fell in with a Cornish man, who had been imported by the Turkish government to

introduce the English mode of tanning and preparing leather. All the leather manufactured in Turkey is of the worst possible kind ; and a pair of shoes that will last a month is almost a prodigy. In consequence of this poor quality of the leather, the troops suffered much for want of stout serviceable shoes during the last campaign against the Russians ; and thousands are stated to have been put hors de combat, from this cause alone. To remedy this evil, the sultan has interested himself warmly in improving the quality of the leather, and has adopted a plan the most likely to ensure success. It will, however, only be half-done if he stops here ; he should also import a score or two of first-rate shoemakers, to give his subjects lessons in the art of making a stout and serviceable shoe—an article not to be obtained at present in all Turkey.

Mr. G. very civilly showed us through his establishment, and explained the various processes which he proposed to employ. The specimens which he exhibited of sole-leather, already finished, appeared to be of the best quality, and have given great satisfaction to his employers. He mentioned, as a remarkable fact, that he had much difficulty in procuring hides of a suitable quality, or prepared in the proper manner, in Turkey, and that the best were from Odessa, in Russia. Much use will be made of valonia—an article which has not been introduced in tanning more than twenty years. It is the acorn, or more strictly the cup, of an oak (*Q. ægilops*), which grows in great abundance in Turkey, and is exported from thence to all parts of Europe. There are two varieties of this valonia: the best is small, and nearly covers the included acorn ; it is said to be the first produce of the young oaks. The valonia contains so much tannin that it acts too powerfully by itself upon the leather ; and it is therefore ground up, and used in combination with bark. Mr. G. believed that the introduction of valonia into the process of tanning, although it greatly abridged the time and expense of the operation, is injurious to the quality

of the leather ; and in this way he explained why the leather of England has so much deteriorated of late years from its former high reputation.

With regard to the introduction of foreigners into his manufacturing establishments, the sultan appears to act upon a wrong principle, if he wishes, which he undoubtedly does, to instruct his subjects in the various processes requiring scientific or manual skill. He should hold out inducements to foreigners to instruct a certain number of his subjects ; and it would materially advance his views if, instead of giving them salaries which undergo no change, he should bestow an additional recompense in proportion to the quantity of goods manufactured. In consequence of not having adopted some plan like this, the parties have been mutually dissatisfied with each other. Many useful projects have fallen to the ground, and even when the contract is rigidly observed, no beneficial result has accrued to the empire.

As an instance in point, I may mention the case of another foreigner, a Mr. Kellie, who manages the two steam-boats in the service of the sultan. He has been nearly five years in Turkey, and yet when I left Constantinople, there was not in the whole empire a single Turk who was competent to start or to stop a steam-engine. His salary is sufficiently large, no extra exertions are required, and of course it would be perhaps too much to expect of him to give such instruction as would at some future day enable the Turks to dispense with his services. This case is alluded to as illustrating the defects of the system, and has no reference to the merits of the individual in question.

A large building for the accommodation of Mr. G. and his assistants had been commenced a short time previous to our visit. It gave us an opportunity of witnessing the mode in which houses are constructed in Turkey. The mechanics and labourers are chiefly Armenians and Bulgarians, and their daily wages do not exceed eight cents per

day, but to judge from the indolent manner in which they set about their work, the frequent interruptions caused by their everlasting pipes, and the slovenly manner in which their work is executed, it may well be doubted whether they actually earn even this small pittance. Their tools are few in number, and of the simplest kind. A long gimlet, a short saw, which when used is drawn towards the workman, and a short-handled adze, which also serves as a hammer, comprise nearly all the tools of a Turkish carpenter. The workmen are directed by a foreman, and it is with him that the government contract for the erection of this building.

The frame, which is of very small dimensions for the size of the building, is clumsily fastened together by large spikes. The roof is then raised, and immediately covered with tiles, and it is not uncommon to see large stones arranged along the ridge, in order to keep the last rows of tiles more securely in their places. No chimnies of course are ever seen in a Turkish house. The ceilings are of thin boards, and, as close joints never occur, they are concealed by long strips of wood, which, when painted, as they usually are, of a different colour from the rest of the ceiling, produce a singular and not unpleasing effect. The lower story is filled in with bricks and mortar, or rather with mortar and a few bricks. From an examination of the mortar used in the construction of the most ancient buildings about Constantinople, there is reason to believe that the process of making mortar at the present day in Turkey does not vary materially from that employed under the Greek emperors. Much pains appear to be taken in mixing it; tow, finely chopped, is substituted for hair, and pounded bricks and tiles form one of the most important ingredients. The windows, when glass is used, are in the French style, opening upon hinges, but more commonly they are closed by lattice-work, and the external air is kept out by inside shutters and curtains. The operation of



painting goes on *pari passu* with the labours of the carpenter and mason. The different steps of puttying, priming, and then applying successive coats of paint, are here unknown. Armed with a long brush, which he wields with both hands, the painter follows up the carpenter, and lays on the paint as thick as it can by any possibility be made to adhere. We could liken it to nothing better than the operation of paying the bottom of a ship. The house we are now examining is about one hundred feet front and thirty deep, is two stories high, and when finished would cost, as we were informed by the foreman, about \$1700.

At a short distance from the establishment of Mr. G. we visited the *kiat hannay*, or paper manufactory, which has also been established by the present sultan. It is a large building, formerly occupied by a Turkish grandee, and at his death it reverted to the crown. It is the practice in Turkey, as our readers are aware, when an officer of the government dies, that all his property is taken by the sultan, who allows the family out of it enough for their maintenance. This remnant of barbarism is attempted to be defended on the ground that all public officers are merely the stewards of the sultan, but its effects, as we shall show in another place, are very injurious to the country.

Fine writing-paper was formerly fabricated at this place, but when we visited it they were engaged in manufacturing merely cartridge-paper for the use of the troops. The process appeared to be very rude; the materials are cotton and hemp, and from the specimens we saw, little judgment seems to be exercised in their selection. In the court in front of the building sat the director of the establishment, complacently smoking his pipe under the cool shade of a tree, and evidently too magnificent and dignified a personage to attend to the details of the concern. These very great men, of whom there is always one, and sometimes more, attached to every public establishment in Turkey, are a serious evil. Entirely unacquainted with the business

over which they are appointed to preside, they do harm whenever they attempt to intermeddle ; but this fortunately is of rare occurrence. In any case, however, they eat the bread of idleness, and consume a great part of the profits of the establishment. We were introduced to the director, and invited to partake of coffee and a pipe. To his inquiries whether we made paper in America, we replied by showing him a small piece which accidentally happened to be about us. He surveyed it in all directions, touched it with his tongue, held it up to the light, and finished by exclaiming, "Mashallah ! we never shall make as good paper as this in Turkey." Putting this down to the score of national politeness, we inquired in turn some particulars respecting the manufactory under his charge. He informed us that twenty workmen were usually employed, and that they could turn out about eight reams per day. He also stated that there were several other paper-factories about Constantinople, but could give no positive information as to their precise locality. Repeated inquiries were subsequently made of various individuals, but we never could ascertain whether they really existed except in the brain of our informant. The difficulty of procuring statistical details in Turkey is proverbial. From the Franks, one can obtain no information to be relied upon ; the rayahs are either unable or unwilling to communicate ; and the Turks, independent of the difficulties of the language, seem to regard such inquiries as idle and frivolous.

Among the many pretended discoveries which the nations of Europe assume to themselves, that of paper may be mentioned, which is now well known to be of oriental origin. The Chinese, indeed, made a paper of silk from the earliest antiquity, but paper from cotton was first made, A. D. 649, at Samarcand, and from thence it was spread with great rapidity throughout all the dominions of the Arabians, and more particularly in Spain, where they substituted flax for cotton. It was not until 500 years after-

ward that paper was made by any of the Christian powers. This important invention, without which the art of printing would have been undiscovered or useless, more than compensates for any injury which the Arabians are accused of having perpetrated, by the destruction of the Alexandrian library.\* The number of inventions for which we are indebted, without being aware of it, to the East, is prodigious. It would lead us too far to enter into details, but we may mention the compass, gunpowder, and paper, which of themselves alone have wrought such mighty changes in war, in navigation, and in science. The curious reader will find many interesting particulars on this subject in Sismondi's *Literature of the South of Europe*.

A part of this large building is to be used as a woollen-manufactory. We understood that it was intended to fabricate coarse cloths for the use of the army; several German workmen are already employed, and many others are daily expected from France. The reader will in these slight notices distinctly perceive that nearly all the modern improvements introduced into Turkey have sole and exclusive reference to the military establishment. In a government like that of Turkey, which is supported by the sword, and borders upon a nation which is only watching a favourable moment to dismember the empire, she must of necessity be continually on her guard, and maintain incessantly a warlike attitude; and although these ameliorations have no immediate reference to the condition or the wants

\* The story of Omar and the Alexandrian library has been so often repeated that it has become almost true history. It was first mentioned, according to Emerson, by Abdollatif, an Arabian writer of the 13th century. Being mentioned by no Christian authorities, as well as involving a manifest falsehood in its details, since the number of books, after so many conflagrations, and their dispersion scarcely a century before by Theophilus, could not possibly equal the report of Abdollatif, the veracity of the story may be justly questioned. But there is no doubt of the dispersion of the library, small and valuable as it must have been, about the period mentioned.

of the people, yet in the end they cannot fail to be extensively benefited.

At a short distance from these establishments is a lovely valley looking out upon the Bosphorus, known by the name of Hooncair Iscalassee, or the sultan's place. It is the occasional resort of the sultan for amusement and relaxation from the grave duties of his station. Clumps of those majestic plane-trees\* which we have so frequently admired were scattered over the verdant plain, while the tasteful hand of art had been busy in adding to the natural beauties of this enchanting spot. Serpentine walks, edged with various young forest-trees, were gracefully distributed through the valley, while under the majestic plane-trees groups of Turkish women were chatting, laughing, and apparently much entertained with the scenery and objects around them. In passing near one of these groups we noticed a general titter, and the words Effendi Ingelesi, or English gentlemen, induced one of our party, who spoke a little Turkish, to address them. They were partaking of a little picnic repast, and with a freedom which was perfectly unexpected, invited us to taste some of their delicacies. Not having the fear of the "turbaned Turk" before our eyes, we were about to seat ourselves sociably on the grass alongside of them, when it was distinctly intimated that this was a familiarity not to be permitted. Thus enlightened as to one article in the code of Turkish politeness and good-breeding, we stood before them, and tasted of such delicacies as they were graciously disposed to offer.

A common article of food among these people, and a delicious one it is, is yaoort, or curdled milk. It is prepared in a peculiar manner, and is so far superior to any thing of

\* The *platanus orientalis*, which resembles our plane-tree (*P. occidentalis*), or as it is sometimes called buttonwood, and improperly sycamore, in every particular except the shape of its leaf. Its Turkish name is cheenar agadge.

the kind with us, that it would be well worth annexing to our culinary list. It is prepared by pouring a quart of boiled milk upon the yeast of beer, and allowing it to ferment. Take of this a spoonful and a half and pour on it another quart; after a few repetitions it loses the taste of yeast, and becomes a very palatable and savory food.\* The Turks have a tradition that an angel taught Abraham how to make it, and that Hagar made the first good pot of it. We were also favoured with morsels of confectionery, in which, it is supposed, the Turks are unrivalled; but, with a single exception, the great family of candies, including the species rock-lemon and hoarhound, with the minor varieties of plum, comfit, &c., are in nowise different, but if any thing rather inferior, to our own. The exception to which we allude is a delicious pasty-mass which melts away in the mouth, and leaves a fragrant flavour behind. It is, as we are informed, made by mixing honey with the inspissated juice of the fresh grape, and the Turks, who esteem it highly, call it *rahat locoom*, or repose to the throat, —a picturesque name to which it seems fairly entitled.

The conversation, if such it might be termed, which consisted entirely of questions on the part of our fair entertainers as to whether we were married, if our women were handsome, how many children, &c., was kept up for some minutes; and we left agreeably undeceived as to the impossibility of conversing with Turkish women. It is true that we never spoke to them upon any subsequent occasion; but the hundred groups of women, distributed about this valley, without not merely a watchful guardian, but not even a single male attendant, was enough to make us skeptical as to the jealous seclusion which travellers have unanimously represented as the fate of Turkish women.

\* In order to prepare the milk for use, take a teaspoonful of the *yaoert*, bruise it with a spoon, and pour on it a quart of lukewarm milk, and set it aside in an earthen vessel: it will be fit for use in the course of an hour or two. It appears to be the same article mentioned by Strabo (lib. vii.) in use among the Tartars of the Crimea, and called by him *οζυγακι*.

## CHAPTER XIV.

Turkish Manner of House-cleaning—Greek Funeral—Turkish Interments  
—Rumours of Plague—Fire at the Arsenal—Another at the Seven Towers  
—Executions—A Persian Traveller—Cholera—Patrols—Counterfeit  
Money.

I WAS witnessing, this morning, the operation of house-cleaning, which is performed by deluging the floors with water, and then the servants dance backwards and forwards on small bundles of heath-twigs; when a low chant, interrupted occasionally by a loud shriek in the streets of our little village, summoned me to the window. It was the funeral of a Greek. The deceased was dressed in his best clothes, and the body was entirely exposed to view. This practice, which is universal among the Greeks, is at all times disagreeable; but when death has ensued after small-pox, or any other loathsome disease, the spectacle becomes truly revolting. A poor woman, apparently the widow of the deceased, walked alongside of the coffin, tearing her hair, which hung dishevelled about her shoulders, and exhibiting other manifestations of the deepest wo. One was reminded of Ariadne's

*Aspice demissos lugentis more capillos,  
Et tunicas lacrymis sicut ab imbre graves.*

As the procession moved slowly onward, the poor mourner would frequently bend over the corpse, kiss its pallid features, address it in the tenderest manner, and then break out into a wild shriek which completely drowned the dismal funeral dirge. With mingled sensations of pity and disgust I turned away from the scene; when a friend, who hap-

pened to be present, dryly inquired whether this was the first Greek funeral I had ever seen, and then furnished me with the following explanation. The death of a Greek is, in some respects celebrated like an Irish wake; as it is always the signal for a regular frolic, and the *φευ! φευ!* of the mourners is the undoubted prototype of the Irish ululu! The poor bereaved widow, as I had considered her, whose passionate grief had made such an impression upon my feelings, was, in all probability an utter stranger to the deceased, and had been engaged for the occasion at the rate of five piastres a day, with bread and *rakee* at discretion. I had frequent opportunities afterward of verifying the accuracy of this information, and the practice seems to be of the highest antiquity.\* This custom also prevailed extensively in ancient Rome; and was carried to such lengths by the real mourners, that women were forbidden by the laws of the Twelve Tables to scratch their cheeks or tear their flesh with their nails. When a Greek dies, his body is sewed up in a coarse cotton sheet, over which are placed his finest clothes. When it reaches the place of interment, the clothes are stripped off, and the body is launched into the grave without any further ceremony. If wealthy, a marble slab with the customary words, "Here lies the servant of God," &c., is placed over his grave,† and masses are said for the repose of his soul. If the deceased be poor, no further attention is bestowed upon his body or soul.

The practice of the Turks differs from this in several particulars. The body is scrupulously washed and cleansed after death; and conformably to their well-known resignation to the decrees of Providence, all outward demonstrations of sorrow are abstained from, as not only unmanly, but

\* Consider and call for the mourning women, that they may make haste and take up a wailing for us, that our eyes may run down with tears and our eyelids gush out with waters. Jer. ix. 17. See also Amos v. 16.

† *Ενθαδε κείται ο δούλος του Θεου. κ.τ.λ.*

impious. The corpse is buried within a few hours after death ; the imaum, or parish-clerk, and a few only of the nearest friends or relatives accompany it to the grave. I have frequently on the Bosphorus met with boats transporting corpses to the Asiatic side, to be interred at Scutari ; and the poetic fable of Charon and Styx appeared to be realized in the noiseless progress of the solitary boatman, and the very form of the caïk, which seemed to be an exact copy of the identical skiff of old Charon himself, as it has reached us on antique vases.

It is usually stated by travellers that there is a very prevalent idea among the Turks that sooner or later their empire in Europe must cease ; and hence, that those who are able to afford it are desirous of being buried on the shore of Asia. That this may operate upon the minds of a few we would not attempt to deny ; but we may suppose other feelings associated with it, less mingled with calculations of what the future may bring forth, and connected with the purer and more exalted feelings of our nature. The Osmanli, however gorged with the wealth or satiated with the luxuries of Europe, always looks back with a yearning heart to the cloudless sky, the fruitful soil, and genial climes of Asia,—the scene of the chivalrous deeds of his ancestors, at once their cradle and their grave. With these heroic chiefs he may naturally be supposed to wish to mingle his dust, far removed from the contaminating presence of his European enemies.

The graves of the Turks are generally shallower than ours, and their coffins are plain unpainted boxes. No other ceremony accompanies the deposite of the coffin in its narrow cell than a simultaneous silent prayer ; after which the grave is filled up and water sprinkled over it by the nearest relatives. This last ceremony is connected with the poetical association that, like a plant, the soul of man will rise to immortality. Pots of flowers are placed near and over the grave ; and in those which are covered with marble



a small aperture is left, in which the pots are imbedded, and the care necessary to watch and preserve these plants forms for many months, and even years, the mournful occupation of the bereaved relatives. It is scarcely worth while to notice the absurd stories that the Turks are buried with their faces downward, and that their nails are allowed to grow as long as possible in order that they may be the better enabled to scratch their way into Paradise. It is with such childish fables that too many travellers in the East have chosen to disfigure their works; and it would seem that his popularity is the greatest who has accumulated the greatest number of these silly inventions.

*Sunday.* We had divine service this morning in the palace of the American minister, Commodore Porter. It was the first time that an American congregation had ever been assembled upon the banks of the Bosphorus, and this was alluded to by the Rev. Mr. Goodel in a very appropriate and impressive manner. Although our congregation was small, yet we had almost as many sects among us as there were individuals present; but all united in one common thanksgiving for our high privileges, and joined fervently with the preacher in aspirations for the continued prosperity of our native land. Old Hundred was chanted with all the fervour of a national anthem; for it was associated with thoughts of that beloved home where thousands of our countrymen were, perhaps, in the very same words, offering up their homage of thanksgiving and praise.

*Wednesday.* We have had rumours of plague for several days past, and the consternation and anxiety are excessive. It is truly surprising that people who have been from their childhood accustomed to the presence of this disease should yet live in such continual terror. The first question asked is, "Are there any new *accidents* to-day?" for by this polite periphrasis do the ignorant and timid European residents here designate one of the greatest scourges of humanity. I have noticed, for several days past, that people of all

classes walk about the streets with smelling-bottles in their hands, and with rags or bits of cotton thrust into their nostrils. To a new-comer it is laughable to witness the caution with which the Franks pick their way along the streets, carefully avoiding to tread on the least particle of woollen, cotton, or paper, and jumping from side to side to avoid touching even the clothes of the passers-by. As an amusing contrast to this, I see the Turk marching along with an air of the greatest nonchalance, elbowing his way through the crowd as if unacquainted with the existence of such a disease as plague, or rather to show his constitutional fortitude and his utter contempt for the puerile precautions adopted by his timid neighbours. But then, on the other hand, everybody knows that Osman is an infidel, and of course not a civilized being, consequently he has not intellect enough to comprehend when he is in danger, and when he is safe. With this sapient conclusion, the Franks of Pera, who are far from being the representatives of the collective wisdom of Europe, persist in their childish terrors, and continue their absurd precautions.

*Friday.* A great blaze last evening in the direction of Pera announced another fire in or near the capital. We learn this morning that the palace of the arsenal, a beautiful and extensive building, the residence of the captain pacha, has been burnt to the ground. It is said to have been the work of incendiaries; and if such be the case they must have set about it in a very crafty manner, and effected their object with a great deal of cool determination. This building stood in the centre of the navy-yard, and was surrounded night and day by careful guards. To ensure their watchfulness during the night, they are compelled to bawl out every five minutes until break of day. It was my lot to reside some time near the arsenal, and it required the experience of several weeks before I could sleep undisturbed by these lugubrious and discordant screams.

*Saturday.* Another fire broke out last evening about

midnight, not far from the Seven Towers, and lasted until four o'clock this afternoon. It commenced in a quarter which is chiefly inhabited by Armenians and Jews, and although during its continuance there was scarcely a breath of air, it continued its destructive progress, and was at last finally subdued by blowing up fifteen or twenty houses. I happened to be in the city at the time, but the crowds of people in the streets rendered a near approach impossible. At the distance of a mile my clothes were covered with the cinders from the conflagration. When I visited the spot a few days afterward, I found a space about two miles in length, and a quarter of a mile broad, entirely devastated. Houses, mosques, minarets, and palaces were in one undistinguishable ruin. One of the reasons why fires make such progress is, that persons not immediately interested abstain from offering their services, as the police arrest and deal in a very summary way with such as cannot explain why they are near the spot. If detected in the act the incendiary is thrown without ceremony into the fire.

This is the third fire which has occurred since our arrival. The first consumed 450, and the second 300 houses. During the whole of my subsequent residence in Constantinople, and until the month of August of the ensuing year, comprising a period of twelve months, there were three other inconsiderable fires, so that, in the frequency, if not in the extent, of these calamities, this city must yield the palm of superiority to New-York. From an official statement it appears that in New-York there were during the last year 119 fires, and nearly as many more false alarms and instances in which the fire was subdued before it had made any progress. But then, on the other hand, it must be acknowledged that when a fire actually does break out in Constantinople, it is, from the causes already alluded to, much more destructive. In consequence of the present general alarm on this subject, the sultan has adopted

rigorous measures. All who can afford it are ordered to suspend lamps before their doors ; and the old regulation of arresting every person found in the streets at night without a lamp is rigidly enforced. The Franks attribute these fires to popular dissatisfaction, occasioned by two recent measures of the sultan. One is that which requires all public officers of the government to pay a certain amount of their salaries or incomes into the treasury, and the other the reduction of the pay of the soldiery. This reduction is from twenty-five to twenty piastres\* per month, and appears to be injudicious ; and as winter is fast approaching, when the soldier will require more comforts, it is certainly ill timed. Whatever may have been the cause, it is asserted that three ex-janissaries and two women have been put to death, having been detected under suspicious circumstances near the place where the fire first made its appearance.

There are causes enough to account for the frequency of these conflagrations, to be found in the ordinary habits and practices of the people, without the necessity of adopting the belief that they are always the effect of design. Every Turk (with the exception of the sultan himself) smokes his chibook night and day, and his fire is knocked out without the least care. If the floor is matted, the straw material is amply sufficient to nourish the flame, and if not covered, the joints between the planks are generally open enough to receive a coal of fire, and at midnight the family are awakened by the blaze of their dwelling. I have frequently observed coopers, cabinet-makers, and other mechanics smoking their chibooks, and knocking out the embers among the shavings and other combustible materials, with all the indifference which may be supposed to denote an every-day occurrence.

These frequent fires cause much anxiety to the government ; they have all occurred within too short a time to

\* Twenty piastres at present equal a dollar.

be the result of accident, and it has been remarked that they arise in the very spot where, from the direction of the wind, they are likely to do the most mischief. Thus, when the palace of the captain pacha was burnt a few days ago, if the wind had not suddenly shifted, the whole of the Ottoman fleet then at the arsenal would have fallen a prey to the flames. One of the diplomatic people, who is well acquainted with the interior of the government, informs me that five hundred persons are now in prison under suspicion of being concerned in these fires. It is, however, a matter of extreme difficulty to ascertain the exact truth; for, in fertility of invention, and disregard of facts, the gossip of foreigners here may well compare with our own newspapers during a contested election. It is currently reported that the sultan has sent an express for Hassim Pacha, who is at present at Adrianople. He is represented as being bloody, bold, and resolute; and from his former exploits has acquired the name of Janissary-killer. Such is the terror inspired by his name, that it is generally believed his mere presence here would be sufficient to prevent any further incendiary attempts.

*Thursday.* I formed an acquaintance this morning with a young Englishman, who has just arrived from India by a rather unusual route. He left Calcutta five months ago, and from thence proceeded to Bombay, and in a steamer from that place up the Persian Gulf to Bushire. He traversed Persia by the way of Tabriz, Ispahan or Teheran, Ararat, and Erzeroom. From Trebizond he coasted along the southern shore of the Black Sea to this place. A part of this journey was made in company with caravans, but the greatest portion was accomplished without any companion. He spoke no language but his own, had no servant or guide, and yet performed this long journey without danger or impediment. He describes the panic occasioned by the cholera to be so great throughout Persia

that many towns refused to permit him to enter,\* and he was consequently compelled to bivouac frequently in the open fields. Bands of robbers were roaming about the country, and taking advantage of the general consternation, would knock at the door of a house at midnight, and in answer to the demand of who they were, would reply, "I am cholera." The affrighted inmates would immediately take to their heels, and leave their houses to be pillaged by these ingenious miscreants.

Mr. W. describes the Persians as a vain, gay, and loquacious people; sumptuous in their dress and furniture, exceedingly disputatious, and, in short, he terms them the Frenchmen of the East.

He represents the country as generally fertile, although much impoverished, and in many places entirely ruined and depopulated by the annual visits which the shah, or the members of his family, pay to various parts of his empire. In these excursions every thing is seized and appropriated for the use of the court, and the news of its approach is regarded in the same light with the visit of the destroying angel. Their military force is very inefficient, and the country will at no distant period fall an easy prey to that colossal power which may yet, in our own day, extend its conquests from the Bosphorus to the Ganges. Judging from what he has seen of the Turks, he considers them, in comparison with the Persians, a more solid, rational people, and infinitely more honest and trustworthy.

An edict of the sultan was read publicly this day in the streets, calling upon the agha, and the chiefs of every village and district, to establish night patrols, and to be vigilant in preventing all incendiary attempts. Several decapi-

\* This shortsighted and ignorant policy has since unfortunately been displayed in our own enlightened country. The authorities of Newport have in this particular acquired a very unenviable pre-eminence. Folly Island, too, in the neighbourhood of Charleston, seems to have acquired a stronger title to its very appropriate name.

tated bodies were exhibited in the streets of the capital yesterday. They were said to have been incendiaries ; but others assert that they were poor wretches, already condemned for other crimes, and now executed for stage effect, and to strike terror among those who still harbour incendiary designs. Whatever may have been their real crime, they are exposed with a bundle of matches in one hand and a bottle of some inflammable material in the other.

Returning home this evening at a late hour, I observed many persons asleep on mats, in the open air, before their respective shops, which were lit up, and apparently ready to receive customers. This affords a pleasing evidence of the good faith and honesty of the people. I have noticed a similar circumstance in the bazars and shops of the metropolis. In these places, during the day, if the shopman wishes to step out, or to indulge himself in a nap, he ties a string across the door, or throws a cloth over a few articles near the street, and this signifies that the shop is shut, a hint which is universally understood and respected. If you purchase an article, the seller of course endeavours to obtain the highest price ; but the Turkish dealer shows much more conscience than his Jewish or Christian neighbours. When a piece of money is put into his hands to change, he returns the whole amount, and leaves it to the purchaser to deduct the price of the article. When it is recollected that the money of this empire is counterfeited to a great extent, the honesty of this procedure is apparent ; he not only confides in your good faith, but exhibits his own in no small degree.

Great quantities of this counterfeit money are manufactured at Birmingham, in England, which, according to an English writer,\* furnishes counterfeit coin for the whole world. There are branch-banks for the issue of this base

\* Southey's "Espriella's Letters."

coin at Syra and Hydra, and the agents carry on their business openly and above-board. They defend their proceedings upon the ground of its being "a lawful business transaction." They aver that it is meritorious to injure "a natural enemy" in any and every possible manner; and although they are no longer at war, yet a Turk is an infidel, and of course is everybody's enemy. Besides, if the English government authorized or connived at the distribution of forged assignats during the French revolution, why should not the Greeks do the same towards the Turkish government. These counterfeiters also maintain that the money which they fabricate actually contains more gold than that issued from the royal mint, consequently they commit no crime, and certainly less fraud than the sultan exercises upon his own subjects. We leave it to casuists to settle the relative quantum of morality in either instance. This business of passing counterfeit coin upon the unsuspecting Turk is of very ancient date. From 1656, the French drove a brisk trade in five-sous pieces, which they sold to the Turk for ten sous. After a gainful prosecution of this business for ten years, they began to alloy the five-sous pieces, and continued this until they were finally detected. Heavy impositions were put upon them, and they were treated no better than counterfeiters. Sir John Chardin, from whom I derive this anecdote, says, "No people in the world have been more frequently cheated than the Turks; being naturally very dull and thickskulled, and apt to believe any fair story, which is the reason why the Christians have imposed upon them a thousand coney-catching tricks. But though ye may deceive them once or twice, yet, when their eyes are open, they strike home and pay ye once for all. And those sort of impositions in that nature are called *avanies*, which are not always unjust impositions neither; they being like the confiscations so frequent in custom-houses."



## CHAPTER XV.

Turkish College—Origin—Ees Hawk Effendi—Libraries—Discipline—  
Turkish Language and Literature—Grammars—Anecdote—Proposition  
to use Roman Letters—Armeno-Turkish.

ACCOMPANIED by my esteemed friend the Reverend Mr. Goodel, I visited a Turkish academy or college, one of the fruits of the important changes which have taken place in this country during the last four years. It is established in the quarter called Hass Keui, some distance up the Golden Horn. The building is spacious, and its interior distribution appears well calculated for the purposes to which it is dedicated. It was originally founded by the wise but unfortunate Selim, and after his death shared the fate of all the benevolent and sagacious measures of his reign. Since the accession of the present monarch it has been restored, and, if I am rightly informed, has been liberally endowed, and sends forth annually a number of young men competent to engage in the active duties of life. The whole course of studies requisite to be completed, embraces a period of three years. It is under the direction of Ees Hawk (Isaac) Effendi, or gentleman Isaac, as we would translate it, a worthy Hebrew who has renounced the faith of his forefathers. This change from Judaism to Islamism is effected with small violence to their previous opinions, for both sects reverence the one true God, and their ceremonies have a striking similarity.

Upon asking for the principal, we were directed to a door through which (after stumbling over a huge pile of slippers) we were ushered into a spacious matted chamber, answering to one of our college recitation-rooms. His highness

Ees Hawk was lolling luxuriously upon an ample divan, smoking at intervals from a huge amber-headed pipe, and reading in a slow measured tone sentence by sentence from a large manuscript before him. Although he was an acquaintance of my companion, his reception of us was any thing but flattering, and he even forgot to offer the customary pipe and coffee, which the poorest Turk never fails to present to his visiter. We had come too far, however, to be daunted by trifles, and accordingly took possession of the only two chairs in the room, upon a very slight invitation from the instructor. Ees Hawk is a man of much consideration among the Turks, and held for many years the post of drogoman to the Porte, a situation now filled by his son-in-law. We were unable to divine the cause of Ees Hawk's pointed incivility, but my companion suggested that our having neglected to apprise him of our intended visit was the most probable reason. Trifling as this incident may seem to our readers, it is mentioned for its singularity, for it was the only instance which occurred during our whole residence in Turkey of any incivility or disrespect.

The scene around us was of an interesting character. There were some fifty or sixty young men in the room, some of whom were apparently from twenty to twenty-five, while others were mere lads of fifteen. Many, from their uniforms, were recognised as officers in different corps of the army. They were all seated in various positions on the floor, and had their papers before them, copying literally after the dictation of the lecturer. The oriental manner of writing differs so materially from ours, that a short notice of it may not be unacceptable. The paper is very stout, and is highly glazed, at least on one side. The pupil holds his paper (which, if a large sheet, is doubled) partly in the palm of his left hand, and this occasionally rests on the left knee. The pens are made of a species of reed, and are cut with a broad nib. The oriental mode

of writing it is well known is from right to left, and of course the reverse of our own. Notwithstanding the apparently awkward position of the writer, and the rude writing materials, the characters were evenly and distinctly traced by the pupils, and some of their notes might have been exhibited as fair specimens of calligraphy. An inkstand of singular shape is attached to their belt, and contains such pens as are not in use. In several of their manuscripts I remarked that the lines, although parallel with each other, were not horizontal, but ascended in a slanting direction towards the left corner of the page. This I take to be a mere fancy, although I have noticed the same oblique direction of the characters on some of their tombstones.

The principal was occupied when we entered in holding forth to his pupils upon the arrangement and dispositions of companies and battalions. He would occasionally single out an inattentive student, call upon him to repeat the last sentence given out, and scolded vehemently if the luckless wight was not able to answer in the most satisfactory manner. Occasionally he would accompany his reproof with a significant gesture as if he were about to spit in his face. This is the vilest expression of contempt in use among the Turks, and I took it for granted that the juvenile geniuses to whom it was addressed merited a correction of a more severe nature. The scholars in general were remarkably attentive and orderly, although the reproofs and threats of the teacher were received with as much hilarity as if he had retailed a stale college jest. He exhibited to us a work in four octavo volumes, written by himself, which had but just issued from the press at Constantinople. I afterward understood that it was a clever compilation from the French, embracing elementary introductions to the sciences; a sort of Turkish Encyclopedia, which served as a text-book to the students. During our stay in the school, two elderly Turkish officers entered the room. They were received with the most deferential respect by the teacher, and were piped

and coffeed with all possible despatch. They appeared to take little interest in the lecture, and seemed rather to have come in as a sort of agreeable lounge. As nearly as I could decipher the teacher's barbarous Turko-Italian-French lingo, one of these officers was an inspector, and the other a general of bombardiers.

At twelve the school was dismissed, and we took our leave, much gratified to find academical institutions of such a high order among a people who are considered as little better than barbarians by the rest of Europe. After leaving the school-room, one of the young men took us into the library, a spacious apartment on the same floor, containing from 800 to 1000 volumes. They were chiefly French; indeed I saw none in any other European language. They were principally treatises upon engineering, and other subjects connected with the military art. With these were a number of manuscripts, and a few printed works on the mathematics in Persian, Arabic, and Turkish. We were informed by our young companion, that the number of students in this institution was 200; that most of them were destined for the army; and that the term of study was three years. I inquired what text-books were used by the students, and he exhibited the four volumes of the principal, assuring us, with much simplicity, that when they had faithfully gone through these volumes, they would have acquired all the knowledge in the world. I have been much struck upon various occasions with the modest demeanour and simplicity of character of the young Turks, and their eagerness to acquire information. Their national shyness and reserve are the only serious obstacles to their rapid acquisition of knowledge. French and Italian are now commonly taught in their higher schools, and the knowledge of a foreign language, so far from being as in former times a reproach, is now quite a distinction in Turkey. The library contained a pair of large globes, various models of useful machines, and several philosophical

instruments. The walls were covered with many paltry coloured English prints of the battle of Prague and other military engagements of that period.

The Turks cannot be charged with inattention to public instruction. Each of the sixteen royal mosques has a maydresay or college attached to it, and the number of students in each varies from three to five hundred, besides free-schools in the vicinity, which are partly supported out of the funds of the mosque. I need hardly remark that elementary schools may be found in every street of Stamboul; indeed their loud recitations compel your attention, and the see-saw motions and sing-song spelling of the little urchins remind one of our own village-schools. Fifty years ago the number of schools in Constantinople alone exceeded 500, and it is asserted that there are more than 1000 at the present day. The children of the nobility and wealthier classes are generally educated at home.

Independent of these places of instruction, there are numerous public libraries, among which that of the seraglio is the most conspicuous. To every royal mosque, and to many of the tekways, or chapels of the dervises, is attached a library, and the largest is stated to contain 6000 volumes. This may be considered a small number; but it must be remembered that oriental literature is circumscribed in comparison with ours, and that they contain but few foreign works. The library of Abdool Hamed is stated to be the best arranged and most accessible; but facilities are readily given to examine all, upon making application in the proper quarter.

With regard to the language and literature of the Turks my means of information are limited; but from the little attention I have as yet paid to it, I am enabled to submit the following remarks.

The Turkish is a Tatar dialect full of soft vowel sounds, and when well spoken falls very agreeably upon the ear. It is characterized by an accomplished scholar as being

inferior to no ancient or modern tongue in softness, flexibility, or harmony; and its rules are so admirably simple, that we should rather suppose them to have been framed by an academy of learned men, than by a society consisting of wandering and pastoral tribes. Its total dissimilarity from any European language renders its acquirement no easy task, and I have met with but four Europeans who had succeeded in mastering its difficulties. They had all, however, been born and brought up in the country, and acquired the language in the natural way before they began to study the alphabet. There are thirty-three letters in this alphabet, of which twenty-nine are derived from the Arabic, three from the Persian, and one peculiar to the Turkish. Of these, thirty are always consonants, one alone is always a vowel, and four are occasionally vowels or consonants. It will be readily perceived that from the absence of vowels, one must have some idea of the word before he can pronounce it, and it is not until he has pronounced it that he can be certain of its meaning. These are, however, difficulties common to all the languages of the East, but there are others almost peculiar to the Turkish.\* The thirty-three characters stand in the alphabet as

\* Of grammars I have seen four, the oldest of which is by a Frenchman named Ryer, who resided several years in Constantinople. His grammar is a thin quarto, printed at Paris in 1633. It is in Latin, and the Turkish forms of speech are made to bend to that language. Its most remarkable peculiarities are an outrageous specimen of debasing flattery in his dedication to Richelieu, and an attempt to print backwards in imitation of the orientals.

Another grammar is by a French missionary, Père Vigier. It is a ponderous quarto, printed at Constantinople in 1790. The worthy father has waded beyond his depth, and introduced artificial and arbitrary distinctions which do not belong to the Turkish, and has made confusion worse confounded by the incorrectness of his oriental types. I have in my possession a Romaic grammar of the Turkish language, which is recommendable for its clearness and simplicity. It is written by a Greek physician, Demetrius, and its imprint at Vienna bears date of 1812. The best grammar is that of Jaubert, who was for many years a distinguished drogoman to the French

they are to be written when not connected with any other ; but the moment we commence writing a word, the form of each character is altered, and this change takes place in three different ways from its primitive form : 1, before and after another character ; 2, after another character, but not joined to it ; and 3, at the end of words. These changes are sometimes effected by simple dots or scratches, but are often so material as entirely to alter the form of the character. In manuscripts these apparent minutiae are often neglected, and amusing mistakes have crept even into documents as important and carefully drawn up as public decrees. I was informed by one of our missionaries that a certain pacha in Syria once received a *firmaun* from the Porte, ordering him to take a census of all the Jews in his pachalik. An unlucky fly-spot (*sit venia verbo*) had accidentally been deposited upon or above one of the characters, and entirely altered the sense of a passage. The order thus changed, purported that the Jews were to submit to a severe operation allied in some degree to their customary national rite, and several were operated upon, before the mistake was discovered.

It results from these changes that the alphabet consists of 109 distinct characters ; to say nothing of divers fanciful *ad libitum* flourishes, depending upon the taste of the writer. And to these we may add, as obstacles in the way of the learner, that there are neither paragraphs nor any sort of punctuation ; and that their fine writers are in the habit of interlarding every sentence with pure Arabic and Persian words, which are difficult to reduce to the rules of Turkish syntax. The Persian poets and Arabic philosophers are quoted with the same facility that a well-educated European

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embassy, and is now a professor of oriental literature in the university of Paris. It leaves nothing to desire except that the author had been an Englishman or American, for there are sounds in the Turkish language which we hold it to be next to impossible for a Frenchman to imitate correctly.

or American refers to the classical authorities of Greece or Rome. The best Turkish writers carry this affectation so far, that the language of their books is quite distinct from that of ordinary conversation. At the end of this work the reader will find an outline of the elements of the language, with a brief vocabulary,\* which, as it is the first attempt with which I am acquainted in our own language, will, I apprehend, be found of service to those who may have occasion to visit Turkey.

The difficulties presented by the Turkish character have led to the proposition, that not only this but all other languages should be written with Roman letters. Volney, a distinguished orientalist himself, was so much impressed with the utility of this plan, that he bequeathed a considerable sum as a premium to those who should carry it into successful execution. In his work entitled "*Alphabet Européen appliqué aux Langues Asiatiques*," he passes in review all the sounds which occur in the languages of Europe, and finds that they amount to twenty vowels and thirty consonants. The Roman alphabet is incapable of representing all these: but, as it is already known, he takes it for the basis of his new alphabet, and by assigning different powers to the redundant letters, and adding marks to others, he succeeded in representing those sounds in which our ordinary alphabet is deficient. Our learned countryman Mr. Pickering has pursued, in the *Memoirs of the American Academy of Sciences*, the same idea, and his treatise may be advantageously consulted by those who take an interest in the subject. He proposes to adopt the vowel sounds of the French and German, and to express the nasal sounds by a cedilla. Zh expresses the French and Portuguese j, and for others he employs component signs, such as ks, ksh, ts, tz, &c. In the vocabulary at the end, which is written exclusively for those who speak English, it will be perceived

\* See Appendix E.



that I have borrowed but two vowel sounds from any other language.

It is not probable that the orientalist themselves would readily adopt this innovation ; but this is a secondary object, as it is intended mainly for the instruction of Europeans. The Hindostanee has already been taught successfully on this plan, and this should encourage us to renew our efforts to extend by these means the diffusion of knowledge. The objections to it are thus summed up by Ruphy in the introduction to his Arabic Grammar.

“C'est changer inutilement la physionomie naturelle de cette langue ; les caractères Arabes ne sont pas plus bizarres que les nôtres ; et la difficulté de l'écriture de droite à gauche est plus imaginaire que réelle. On apprend la sténographie en une heure ; il ne faut guère plus de temps pour apprendre la figure et la valeur des caractères. Après cela, que reste-t-il à étudier ? le corps de la langue. Eh bien ! les caractères Français diminueront-ils la difficulté de cette étude ? L'expérience m'a prouvé le contraire.”

The objection that it would change the natural physiognomy of the language appears to be a trivial one. The Germans have changed theirs almost within our own time, and find an advantage in approximating its “natural physiognomy” to the other languages of Europe. The comparison with stenography is equally unfortunate ; for who would in preference enter upon the study of a language written in stenographic characters, amounting to more than 100 in number, written backwards, without punctuation or vowels, and interlarded with foreign words. Such is the actual appearance of the Turkish, and the same remark applies more or less to all the oriental languages.

Printing was first introduced into Turkey, in 1727, by Achmet III. ; but not until every precaution had been taken, the ulemah carefully sounded, and a solemn decree published by the grand mufti. At this office fifteen works were published, viz. an Arabic and a Persian Dictionary, nine his-

torical works, two of geography, one on the compass, and one, strange to say, on the various forms of government throughout the world. The death of its learned projector Basmahji Ibrahim, nineteen years afterward, put a stop to this establishment; but another edition of the Arabic Dictionary was published in the course of eleven years. It was then suffered to slumber for twenty-seven years, when it was revived by Abdool Hamid I., and kept up by Selim, who established several printing-presses about the capital; but the blind and bigoted opposition of the ulema prevented them from becoming extensively useful. It is related of this learned body, that they objected to the printing of the Koran because it was unlawful to squeeze the word of God, as must necessarily be done by the printer and bookbinder. Several elegant productions, however, appeared from the imperial printing-press at Scutari. Among these were two works, written by the celebrated Rayf Effendi; one of which was entitled, "The Basis of Victory," and was designed to illustrate the necessity of reform in the civil and military departments. It afterward cost its learned and patriotic author his life: the other was entitled, "A Medical Guide to Mecca for the Use of Pilgrims." At the arsenal were six other presses, from which appeared several publications; among them are mentioned a collection of Turkish songs, a magnificent atlas, and a large dictionary of the Arabic, Persian, and Turkish languages. All these establishments perished with their illustrious founder. The present monarch has successfully restored and carried into execution, further than the warmest well-wisher to Turkey could have anticipated, all the improvements connected with printing, so much desired by the unfortunate Selim. Works appear now almost daily from the presses of the capital, which would do honour to any city of Europe. Of these I have seen too few to enumerate; but I may be permitted to particularize the work already alluded to, as a text-book in the college at Hasskeni,

and a treatise on human anatomy, written by Chani Zadeh, one of the ulemah. It is a folio of 300 pages, with fifty-six well-executed plates. It is divided into three parts: the first containing descriptive anatomy, the second physiology, and the third therapeutics.

The difficulties presented by the Turkish characters have led many to write the language in the letters used by the Armenians, which form a very simple and elegant alphabet. The great bulk of the Armenians are not acquainted with their own language, but all speak Turkish from their cradle, and are accustomed to read that language, written in their own characters, and this forms what is erroneously called Armeno-Turkish. Almost all the religious tracts hitherto published for distribution among the Turks, are printed in this way. I have seen Goldsmith's History of Rome, Young's Night Thoughts, the Sacrifice of Isaac, the Sale of Joseph, the Passion of Christ, and other similar works, translated into Turkish, with Armenian characters. These were chiefly printed at Venice, under the auspices of the Metacharistan Society.

It may be added, that few Turks are acquainted with the Armenian characters, and hence the religious Armeno-Turkish tracts are of no use to them. Indeed, it is most probable that they are intended for the Armenians, who have more of a literary turn than the Turks, and who receive and read them with much pleasure.

## CHAPTER XVI.

Heights above Buyukdery—Chaoush Grapes—Geological Speculations—  
Tract on Cholera—Aquatic Excursions of the Sultan—His Habits.

THE high hills which overhang our marine villa have frequently tempted us to climb their summits, and to-day we determined to make the attempt. After threading several crooked lanes, occupied almost exclusively by Greeks, we gained the open grounds, and entered the vineyards which cover the breast of the mountain. They were in a healthful condition, and were loaded with fruit. The grapes of this country are mostly of the variety termed *chaoush*, large, white, and sweet, and without exception the finest table grape I have ever tasted. They are offered for sale in bunches five or six feet long, and are so disposed as to resemble a single mammoth cluster. The usual price in the markets is from one to two cents the pound, and they form no inconsiderable portion of the food of the poor. They keep perfectly well all winter in this latitude, which is said to be owing to the lime or seawater in which they are occasionally immersed; but others have assured me that no particular care is necessary. The soil which seems to prevail in these flourishing vineyards results from a friable greywacke, which decomposes into a reddish earth. From the soft structure of this rock, it is readily acted upon by the winter rains, which in many places have deeply indented the face of the mountain. Towards the summit the heaths (*Erica arborea et vulgaris*) begin to appear, and soon become the exclusive inhabitants of that region. This hill is a part of that mountain-chain which, commencing at the Black Sea, takes the direction of Constantinople, and forms the European bank of the Bos-

phorus. It varies in height from eight hundred to one thousand feet. On the summit of the hill we noticed enormous masses of white quartz boulders, which recalled the long-vexed geological question as to the origin of these foreign bodies in such elevated regions.

The passage from the Euxine to the Sea of Marmora, which lay at our feet, has afforded a fertile field to inquiry, and given ample scope to conjecture. It is certain that the physical conformation of the straits, the composition of the rocks, and the strong volcanic traces to be met with at every step, lead one to adopt the opinion that this celebrated passage has been opened by earthquakes and volcanoes. There is, in fact, an ancient tradition that such an event occurred about 3600 years ago, producing a deluge (commonly called Ogygian) which overwhelmed a portion of Greece. Such traditions do not, I apprehend, demand our fullest belief, and in fact are seldom swallowed entire, except by those who hang a theory upon their supposed authenticity. It may have happened that, even in the earliest ages of man, certain physical appearances attracted his attention and excited his speculations, and his crude conclusions passed in succeeding ages, through the medium of tradition, for undoubted facts. Let us take as an example the supposed disjunction of the Straits of Gibraltar. It is possible that, at a very early period, the appearance of those straits led to a general belief, among those who thought at all, that this passage was suddenly formed by some convulsion of nature. At that period, geographical knowledge was necessarily confined within very narrow limits; and all the world was thought to be comprised within their neighbourhood. When this mighty rush of waters took place, it must have swept every thing before it; but as there was nothing but water beyond, the land, which according to their limited ideas previously existed, was totally washed away: and hence arose the fabled

Atlantis,\* through the same respectable medium of tradition.

These hints are thrown out, not as militating against the opinions of the volcanic gentlemen, but as a caution against impressing vague traditionary evidence into the service when we are or should be engaged in the humbler but more useful business of collecting facts.

The rocks on both sides of the straits, as far as my observations have gone, are composed of argillaceous slate, and transition limestone. This formation extends from the Sea of Marmora for eighteen miles up the Bosphorus; here the formation changes, and one uniform mass of volcanic rocks appears, and forms the entrance from the Black Sea. These are the prominent facts; let us advert to the hypotheses which have been framed to explain these appearances.

The general opinion among geologists seems to be that at some remote period the Caspian, Aral, the Sea of Azof, and the Euxine formed one great inland sea; that a sudden convulsion burst asunder the barriers of the Bosphorus, and, as a necessary consequence, those of the Dardanelles and the Mediterranean at Gibraltar. The outpouring of such a volume of water lowered the whole level of this great internal sea, and the inequalities of its bed produced a separation into distinct salt lakes. This theory would imply that its original level was much higher than at present, and hence we are called upon to suppose that this unusual elevation was created by another convulsion, which upheaved the mountain-ranges of the Caucasus. To settle this point satisfactorily, it would seem to be necessary to examine simply the elevation of all the land between the Sea of Marmora and the Euxine; and if a single line could

\* In that immense sea which expands before the Pillars of Hercules, there was formerly an isle, or rather a continent, like Asia or Africa, &c. &c. Earthquakes and inundations arose, and this Atlantis, so rich and populous, was suddenly submerged and disappeared.—Plato *Dia. Tim.*

be drawn between those seas, lower than what may be supposed to have been the height of the land in the place of the present channel, the theory would of course fall to the ground. That such a place exists a few miles west I have some reason to believe, and I hope at some future day to have an opportunity to examine it.

Another hypothesis is, that the Bosphorus was rent asunder by an earthquake, and the water thus poured out would produce the same separation of the supposed great inland sea as before alluded to. This theory is objectionable on two grounds. First, it is unphilosophical to call in the aid of a great cause to account for a phenomenon by the old rule, *Nic intersit Deus*, &c., when a smaller one will answer our purpose; and, in the next place, we should find traces along the shores of the Euxine of its former elevation. As far as my observations have extended, nothing of this kind is to be found, at least for many miles, on each side of the entrance to the Bosphorus.

May we not be permitted to suppose that what is now the bed of the Bosphorus was once filled with a deposit of softer materials, such as secondary limestone, with imbedded shells, of which I have already detected indications in the neighbourhood. Is it unphilosophical to suppose that the waters have from the earliest ages passed over this bed, and, with the occasional aid of an earthquake at the mouth, have gradually denuded the bed to its present level?

But these and similar speculations were put to flight by the appearance of the magnificent scene which lay before us. At our feet was the Bosphorus, extending from the Euxine as far as Yenikeui, where it was shut in by the high hills, with the picturesque villages of Buyukdery and Therapia extending along its placid shores. Beyond this ocean-stream were the mountainous heights of Asia, the Giant's grave, and here and there some cypress-crowned summit marking the last resting-place of the children of

the Prophet. Our left embraced the boundless horizon of the Black Sea, while on our right, far across the high table-land adjoining the Bosphorus, we could distinguish the minarets and proudly-swelling domes of St. Sophia and Suleiman; and beyond, the Prinkipos Isles, and the Sea of Marmora. Although my own experience is against climbing hills merely for the purpose of seeing prospects, which nine times in ten do not repay the trouble and fatigue, yet I would cheerfully ascend even a higher mountain to enjoy again such a lovely scene.

On our way down, by a pathway which was almost choked up with a copious growth of underwood, we suddenly came upon an old Turk, who was occupied in rather an unusual manner. He was sitting in the ordinary posture on the ground, near a rustic marble fountain, and poring over the pages of a book with so much intentness that our presence was unheeded until we were close by his side. The self-possession of a Turk is under no circumstances ever disturbed, and accordingly, after the customary salutation had passed between us, he turned the conversation to the book which had occupied his meditations. He informed us that it was a treatise on cholera, drawn up by the medical board of Constantinople, published by the sultan, and distributed gratuitously throughout the empire. The doctrines of fatalism are generally represented to be carried so far among the Turks that it is thought impious to endeavour, by human means, to avert any impending danger. This is probably true in all countries among the illiterate; and where there is much constitutional apathy or stoicism, as among the Turks, it may possibly be carried to its fullest extent. To counteract this self-abandonment is one of the objects of the treatise,\* and it is shown that this pernicious belief is in no way connected with or dependent upon their religion.

\* In Appendix F, I have given the substance of this singular pamphlet. The original is deposited in the Library of the New-York Historical Society.



This is another of the numerous measures adopted by the Sultan Mahmoud, for which he will be repaid by the present happiness of his subjects, and the approbation of posterity. When it is recollected that only a few years ago such a measure would have endangered the throne, and the life of its author, the enlightened views and singular firmness of the present sultan may be justly appreciated.

*Friday.* We were sitting this evening in the court of our palace, inhaling the perfume of the orange and myrtles around us, and watching the progress of the full-orbed moon as she threw her rays over the gently-roughened waves of the Bosphorus, when the regular plunge of many oars announced the approach of a barge belonging to some personage of distinction. We were not left long in doubt as to the personage in question; for immediately a band of music struck up a spirit-stirring air, and from our little coterie the exclamation arose in various tongues, "The sultan is coming." The first boat, rowed by ten oars, contained, in fact, the sultan, accompanied by one or two of the officers of his court; and the second, which was much larger, bore a full band of musicians, and was brilliantly lit up, in order to enable them to see their notes. I may take this occasion to remark that all the military bands are now nearly upon a footing with those of Europe. There is a very extensive school, under the direction of an Italian musician, where young lads are carefully instructed, and from a natural aptitude become excellent performers. Sultan Mahmoud's Grand March is known throughout the empire, and as it is in fact a composition of much merit, will in a few years doubtless become as national an air as the Parisienne, or God save the King.

As the gay cortège approached, the imperial caïk suddenly diverged from its course, and steered directly for the court in which our party were assembled. For a moment we imagined that we were to be honoured by a royal visit—a circumstance of no unusual occurrence,—and great was

the consequent bustle and flutter among the ladies of our party at the idea of such an unexpected honour. The imperial barge approached so near that we could readily discern the person of the sultan, half-reclined upon a sumptuous cushion; although the indistinctness of the moonlight prevented us from examining his features. As he approached, a slight movement of the helm sent the caïk almost grazing the marble steps of our court, and his majesty surveyed us, or, perhaps I should rather say, the ladies of our party, with apparently as much earnestness as we endeavoured to trace the features of the absolute monarch of so many millions of human beings. The procession passed on, sweeping along the crowded quay of Buyukdery; and the last seen of it was near Therapia, where for two or three weeks past the sultan has taken up his residence. In these excursions it is always understood that he is incognito, and it would be considered a great breach of decorum to recognise him by look or gesture.

During the warm months he resides at different times in the various palaces which are situated on the Bosphorus, and frequently spends his evenings in aquatic excursions like the one we have just noticed. His habits are described as of the simplest kind, and his amusements consist chiefly in riding, fishing, and exercising with the bow. He is said to be the most graceful and fearless rider in his dominions—an accomplishment which may fairly be weighed against those of some of his brother potentates, who are at the head of all the civilization of Europe;—one of whom has been known to kill a wild boar, when securely tied up, at the distance of twenty paces,—and the chief merit of another, as awarded to him by his subjects, consisted in making the most perfectly graceful bow of any man in his kingdom.

Like all his subjects, the sultan is extremely temperate in eating, and his establishment is far from being on that expensive and magnificent scale which we are accustomed to

attribute to oriental courts. I have been assured by an officer of his household, that the expenses of his table rarely exceed ten piastres, or about fifty cents, a day; and from various anecdotes which I have elsewhere heard, I should not be disposed to believe that his annual expenses exceed those of the President of the United States.

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## CHAPTER XVII.

Dolmabatchi—Probable Spot where Mohammed II. disembarked—Breed of Mastiffs—Barracks—Reservoir—Turkish Cemetery—Turban—Armenian Cemetery—Greek—Plague-hospital—Construction of Houses—Mechanic Arts—House-rent—Arsenal—Fanar.

IN company with the learned and amiable author of *Notes on Brazil, Journey from Constantinople, &c.*, I visited Dolmabatchi, about three miles above Galata, on the European shore. I had previously examined the spot indicated by Gibbon, where it was supposed that Mohammed the Second, after besieging Constantinople for fifty days, finally carried his point by a masterly stroke of generalship. This spot is called Balta Liman, and is about nine miles above the capital. The harbour of the Golden Horn was too well fortified to yield to the forces of Mohammed, even with the combined aid of catapults and gunpowder. In order to attack them in the rear, which was their most vulnerable point, Mohammed caused eighty galleys to be transported across the country in one night, and the next morning found them afloat on the waters of the Golden Horn, and thundering at the gates of the capital. Dr. Walsh, however, shows with great probability that Gibbon was misled by his authorities, and that from the facilities afforded by the

nature of the ground, the shortness of the distance, and the difficulty of accomplishing the other route in one night, the Turkish fleet must have been transported from Dolmabatchi.

A considerable portion of this valley is still laid out in gardens, where are raised great quantities of dolmas, or edible gourd (*Cucurbita pipo*), from whence the place derives its name.\* This spot was formerly celebrated for animal combats, bull-baiting, and other barbarous amusements of the Ottoman court, and at the present day is devoted to exercises somewhat analogous in their nature. The house was pointed out to me where a large and fierce breed of mastiffs are still maintained as a matter of state, although the sports are now discontinued. They are, indeed, exceedingly furious in their appearance, and more resemble wild, untamed beasts, than the humble and affectionate companion of man. So great is their strength that they have been known to break a man's leg at a single blow. When taken out for exercise they are secured by iron chains, and it requires the aid of two men, one on each side, to restrain a single dog within due bounds. This spot, as I have already hinted, is now devoted to martial exercises, and the sultan frequently reviews here the troops of the capital. Just at this time it has an arid, scorched appearance, owing to the long drought; but the rains of October will soon clothe it with luxuriant verdure.

Ascending the steep bank, we reached the large barracks for troops in the vicinity of Pera. It is two stories high, and forms a square, of which the sides are about 500 feet. It is capable, as I was informed, of containing 7000 men, but this estimate appears to be too large. The Turkish soldier can scarcely be said to require all the conveniences and consequent space which are so necessary to other troops; and hence, as they stow close, this number may pos-

\* *Dolma*, gourd; *batchi*, garden.

sibly be accommodated. There are eight of these large barracks about the city, and they are computed to be capable of containing altogether 70,000 men. The building before which we were now standing was at this time occupied by hundreds of families, which had been burnt out at Pera, the sultan having ordered it to be thrown open gratuitously to the sufferers by that extensive calamity.

Near this is a large stone reservoir, about 200 feet square, supplied with water by a particular system of pipes which will be hereafter described. It is elevated twelve feet above the ground, and is a substantial structure. Not far from this we entered upon one of those vast burying-grounds which form one of the most conspicuous features of every Turkish city. These have been so often described, that I may be spared the trouble of repeating what has been said respecting them. In a few words, however, I may state that the cemetery upon which we are now entering covers an area of more than 100 acres, and that a thick forest of cypresses (resembling in shape our poplar, but with a dark green foliage) overspreads it with a solemn shade, extremely appropriate to its ordinary uses. It is a common error that in none but Turkish cemeteries are cypresses permitted to grow. I have seen them introduced (sparingly, however) in other burying-grounds; and the church-yard of St. Demetri at Tatavola, just occurs to me as one of the Greek cemeteries where they grow in great abundance. It is probable that the selection of a particular tree may have been originally a matter of accident or taste, and the distinction has been kept up by the force of custom, which we know to be often stronger than any law.

At the head of each Turkish grave is a stone, with its upper part fashioned into a turban. On the more ancient tombstones these turbans assume a more varied and fantastic appearance, which has either been abandoned, or is now only known in the remotest parts of the empire. The

future antiquarian, perchance some learned Herrick, who may prosecute his inquiries concerning the antique and varying fashions of the Turkish empire, need not consult moth-eaten records for descriptions, nor puzzle himself to decipher decayed illuminated manuscripts, to ascertain the manifold mutations of the Turkish turban. His researches, indeed, will be among the dead ; but it is from the burying-ground that he will collect his facts, and all his authorities he will find in this novel *magazin des modes*, sculptured in imperishable marble.

From the more recent gravestones even the turban, that hitherto invariable emblem of the Turk, has disappeared, and its place is occupied by the representation of a fez or red cap, which is now universally worn. I am aware that I am about to utter what may be considered as a heresy by the lovers of the picturesque ; but to my mind the fez is a more beautiful and becoming article than even the gorgeous and imposing turban. It is connected, too, with visions of the future prosperity of Turkey, while the turban carries us back to the savage times of the cut-throat crusaders, when literature and true religion were trampled under foot, and robbery and murder were considered as the most honourable mode of subsistence.

The graves of the Turkish women are designated by a stone of a different shape, and of course without a fez or turban. The general character of the monumental inscriptions, as they have been translated to me, is extremely simple. They consist of the name of the deceased, his occupation, or the offices which he filled, and conclude by recommending his soul to the only living and true God. Panegyric, or even a simple notice of the qualities of the deceased, is never dreamed of by these queer people, who would perhaps consider it as a mortal sin to tell a falsehood in conversation, much less to perpetuate one on marble.

We crossed over to the Armenian burying-ground, which

is of a much more light and cheerful character, as it is shaded by the pretty turpentine-tree (*P. terebinthus*). This tree attains a considerable size, and the resin which exudes from its trunk has an agreeable odour, which may be perceived at some distance. Strange as it may appear, this burying-ground is, or at least was before the destruction of Pera, the fashionable lounge, and is now a common resort for all the idlers of both sexes among the Franks, Greeks, and Armenians. Its elevated and airy situation, the agreeable shade, and the convenience of comfortable seats, afforded by the flat tombstones, conspire to render it a pleasant promenade. I will not pretend to deny that the charms of the Armenian ladies who frequently come hither to visit the tombs of their relatives may not add to its attractions.

The tombstones are flat marble slabs, with the name and virtues of the deceased cut in Armenian characters, but generally in the Turkish language. Many of the decorations, such as flowers, foliage, &c., are chiselled with rare delicacy and beauty, and the letters are carved with an elegance which I have never seen surpassed in Europe or America.

The implements of the former trade or occupation of the deceased occupy a conspicuous place on the stone, and hence we see a sculptured inkstand denoting a lawyer or scribe, an adze a carpenter, an anvil a blacksmith, and a lancet a barber or surgeon. In some instances, where the defunct has made his exit by violence, the manner of his death is faithfully depicted on his tomb. Thus, on one stone, after mentioning the name and date of his death, the deceased is represented on his knees with his head in his hands, while jets of blood spout from his neck in stiff curves, like those issuing from a beer-bottle on a tavern sign. On another the deceased is represented as swinging gracefully from a tree, to denote that he had perished by strangulation. I was at a loss at first to understand why such unseemly

mementoes should have been preserved, as they are usually regarded as records of infamy and crime. It was explained to me that the Armenians, in common with the Turks, have heretofore often been subjected to the application of "the second section," whenever their wealth has been sufficiently great to excite the cupidity of the reigning power. To die by the sword or gibbet implies therefore the possession of wealth, and the surviving relations glorify themselves in perpetuating this record of pecuniary standing and consideration.

Should the Armenians ever adopt the European fashion of wearing coats-of-arms, we should perhaps see one distinguished family sporting a halter *pendent*, another a gibbet *displayed* in a field azure; and these would be quite as much associated with historical recollections as the heron's crest or bloody hand of modern heraldry. While upon this subject, may we not indeed inquire if the "or and argent" do not faintly adumbrate or shadow forth the means by which honorary distinctions were acquired in the middle ages.

There is one little circumstance connected with these tombstones which displays an amiable trait of character. On the upper corner of each stone are two small cavities, which are usually filled with water. The intention of this is to supply a drink to the thirsty birds, and indeed to invite them to take up their residence in the neighbourhood, and by their song to give additional cheerfulness to the spot. It is not, however, exclusively an Armenian practice, for the Turks and other orientals have the same custom.

Forming a sort of suburb to this city of the dead, are the Greek and Frank burying-grounds. There is nothing remarkable about them, except that the English and Dutch appeared to give a marvellous preference to florid Latin inscriptions, which it is probable the panegyricized deceased knew as little about as the Turks, Greeks, Armenians,



Jews, &c., above ground. The Greek cemetery is planted with mulberry-trees, and would be a pleasant spot were it not for its proximity to the city, and at this moment it is filled with the tents of families who have been recently burnt out of Pera. It has in fact become a market-place or fair, and the Greeks exhibit the usual poetry and romance of their character, in driving their petty traffic among the tombs, and over the very bones of their ancestors.

Leaving this scene, we passed under the walls of the plague hospital, built exclusively for Franks who may be affected with this disease. Over its melancholy walls we noticed the golden-berried ivy (*H. chrysocarpon*), the true ivy of the ancients, and this is the only locality about Constantinople in which I have seen it flourishing. The melancholy fate which has attended every patient admitted into this hospital gives some colour to the reports which the Franks circulate of its character. According to their account, no patient has ever been known to leave this place alive, and the *voi che entrate* of Dante would seem to be the most appropriate inscription over its walls. They pointed out to me, with a superstitious air, the spot where the great fire was arrested, which happens to be precisely under the walls of this hospital.

We now entered upon what will long be recollected as the great conflagration of Pera. Houses were running up in all directions, the ashes and embers were shovelled away from the streets, the sound of the hammer and saw was continually heard, droves of asses laden with tiles were lumbering the streets, and horses were trailing along a stick of timber on each side, so admirably arranged as to trip up or fracture the legs of the unwary traveller. Hundreds of Turkish and Armenian blacksmiths might be seen among the heaps of ruins, seated on the ground with an extempore anvil before them, and straightening the old nails and other iron fastenings for the new buildings. As fast as the car-

penter completed his work, the painter followed him up with a brush, and in this way houses were completed with a celerity which would have outrivalled even that of a New-York job-builder. We should consider, however, what a Turkish house really is, before we give way to astonishment at the quickness with which they are constructed. In the first place, they are entirely of wood, and have no fireplaces or chimneys. The frame is of the smallest possible size; the clapboards are of such thin stuff that they are fastened with tenpenny nails, and the floors of rough broad planks, laid down without the least attention being paid to their joinings together. These seams are frequently so wide that an acquaintance informed me he once dropped his walking-cane or umbrella through one of them, while on a visit to a Periot nobleman; and as he could not request the floor to be taken up for such a trifle, he was obliged to put up with its loss. Of course, the numerous stories related of children being lost through these crevices are to be treated as pleasant exaggerations; for whenever they become wide enough to allow of such an accident, small slips of wood are introduced to fill up the seams.

The entire ignorance which prevails on all subjects connected with domestic architecture, or rather, the carelessness which pervades every branch of the mechanic arts, is truly surprising. I do not think that I ever saw a straight wall, a level floor, or a true perpendicular, in any house during my residence in Turkey. The chief architects are Armenians, who build usually by contract, and employ chiefly the wretched Bulgarians as day-labourers. These simple-hearted and honest creatures are said to labour under the same sort of confusion of ideas usually imputed to the Irish; and whatever blunders they may commit, their employers are too indolent or indulgent to rectify. While upon this subject, I may remark that house-rent at Constantinople is very low; although just now, in conse-

quence of the recent fire, it has somewhat increased. A very comfortable house may be obtained for \$200 per annum; although many merchants, who occupy large and costly buildings, pay more. In the city itself (where travellers, parrot-like, have repeated the same falsehood, that strangers are not allowed to reside), houses may be hired at very low rates. In the environs house-rent is still cheaper, and scarcely exceeds \$100. The palace of the American minister at Buyukdery, a spacious building, or what we would call a large double two-story house, with gardens, stables, &c. attached, does not exceed \$250 a year. Cheap, however, as this rent may appear to be, yet, when we consider the small cost of the buildings, they no doubt afford a handsome interest to the proprietor. Even the risk of fire is generally in favour of the owner; for the whole year's rent is always paid in advance, and this is generally enough to defray the expense of rebuilding.

It is much to be regretted that more enlightened views have not been adopted in the reconstruction of Pera. Considerations of policy, drawn alike from the devastation of pestilence and fire, would be sufficient, one might imagine, to induce them to enlarge their streets and ventilate their city. It is true, that this has been undertaken in Constantinople; but in Pera, the blind and selfish opposition of the Franks themselves has defeated this salutary measure. The little ten feet lane, which by an exceeding stretch of courtesy is called *la Grande rue de Pera*, will be yet more curtailed in the vicinity of the English palace. The English minister, Gordon, is reported to have remonstrated warmly to the Turkish authorities on this subject; but received for answer, that when he could induce his diplomatic brethren to yield a single inch of their ground on the *Grande rue de Pera*, they would cheerfully give him every assistance. In consequence of this reply, it is said that the English palace will not be rebuilt; but the more intelligent of the English residents assert, that this question will depend

entirely on the fate of the reform bill, now under discussion in their parliament.

Turning out of the main street to the right, we passed by a rapid descent through another Turkish cemetery, known here under the name of the *Petit Champ`de Mort*. A short distance brought us to the gates of the arsenal, through which we passed without being questioned by the guard on duty. Had this freedom of admission been allowed in the arsenal of any other nation, it might have been cited as an example of free-hearted liberality ; but in barbarian Turkey it passes without a comment from the European traveller.

Stepping into a *caik* from the quay of the arsenal, we crossed the Golden Horn, and a few minutes brought us to the *Fanar* or *Fanal*, formerly the residence of the most enlightened and polished of the modern Greeks. The *Fanar* has of late figured so much in the annals of revolution, that it may be deemed worthy of a separate chapter.

## CHAPTER XVIII.

Fanar—Population—Character of the Greeks—Language—Population of Constantinople—Walls of the City—Plague—Its horrid Character.

THIS spot derives its name from a light which was, and still is, suspended over the principal gate. It is a distinct quarter of the city proper, and is surrounded by walls, constructed to restrain the former turbulence of its inhabitants. The walls are now neglected, and the gates are never closed, so that it may fairly be presumed that the Greeks are more quiet in their demeanour, or that the Turks think it the wisest course to let them take their own way. It is not exclusively inhabited by Greeks, for we observed many dwellings both of Armenians and Turks. The streets are narrow and crooked, and not to be compared in point of cleanliness with the Turkish quarters of the city; and the strong contrast between the filthy narrow lanes, and the splendour and magnificence of the habitations of the Greeks of the Fanar, has been depicted in a lively manner by the author of Anastasius. The population of this quarter in 1818, according to a census taken by the clergy, amounted to nearly 30,000 souls. This amount was much reduced during the revolution; but confidence has again been established, and it is supposed by the most intelligent of the Greeks themselves that the population has now regained its former amount. It formerly contained the most wealthy and the best educated of the Greek nation; and at the present time the Fanariot possesses more intelligence, and more moral worth, than can be found in any part of Greece.

It is difficult to speak with impartiality of the Protean character of the modern Greek; indeed, so opposite have been the judgments formed of their character, that two sects

have arisen among travellers, to which have been applied the names of Mishellenists and Philhellenists. The former class embraces, according to the Rev. Rufus Anderson, traders, naval officers, merchant-captains and supercargoes, disappointed enthusiasts, and travellers who wish to show themselves exempt from the weakness of classical enthusiasm. This is a pretty copious list, and comprises, one would imagine, almost all sorts of persons from whom any information could possibly be derived. I have never seen an attempt to classify the Philhellenists: but they may be said to comprise raving enthusiasts, who are ready to explode at the name of liberty; adventurers, tired of the dull pursuits of civil life, or desirous of earning bread and renown by cutting the throats of Turks; dull, heavy spirits, who are fearful of quitting the beaten track of panegyric, who, cuckoo-like, repeat the catchwords of Grecian glory, Grecian heroism, Grecian eloquence, the divine art, &c. &c., and fancy raptures which they never knew. To these may be added well-meaning young clergymen, just out of college, who stare and wonder to hear Greek spoken "even by little boys," and imagine that they see in the bigoted and ignorant canaille around them the legitimate descendants of Miltiades and Pericles. This latter class do not seem to recollect that the only spot in the Morea where their benevolent objects can be carried into effect is under the cannon and protection of the infidel Turk. They well know, or at least ought to know, that if Greece was independent of all foreign control, at this moment not a single foreign missionary from Protestant England or America would be allowed to remain in the country.\*

\* Our schoolboy raptures for the heroism and the public spirit, not only of the Greeks, but of the Romans, would perhaps evaporate, if some historian should arise who would render a faithful account of their mingled ferocity and cowardice, of their unvarying duplicity towards friend and foe, of their profligacy, their total want of delicacy, and of their system of religion, which was at once monstrous and contemptible.

The systematic libellers of every nation with which they came in contact,

To whom then are we to look for an impartial estimate of the Greek character? Shall we recur to the "Grecæ fide" of Plautus, which meant "ready money,"—for the word of a Greek could not be taken? or to Cicero, who states\* that they never made any conscience of observing their oaths. But these were foreigners and rivals, and hence their testimony is suspicious. Hear, then, the opinion of one of their own countrymen, Euripides: "Greece never had the least spark of honesty;" and Polybius is even stronger in his expressions. Even the assertions of avowed Philhellenists confirm the reputation which they have acquired during more than twenty centuries. The reverend gentleman already alluded to, who has attempted their defence, acknowledges their lamentable disregard of truth; and Byron, one of the most enthusiastic in their cause, and who died in Greece a martyr to his own egregious vanity, says, "I am of St. Paul's opinion, that there is no difference between Jews and Greeks,—the character of both being equally vile." Even the character which the modern Greeks give of themselves, although intended to display their various accomplishments, is silent as to the qualities of their heads or hearts. The mere vernacular scholar will require to be informed that the following national puff upon themselves cannot be translated into *decent* English.

Ελληνος 'στὴν τράπεζαν,  
 Ελληνος 'στὴν θάλασσαν,  
 Ελληνος καλὸς ναύτης,  
 Καλὸς τὴν νυκθὰ τὴν στρώμαν  
 Μακαίραν καὶ σκυρτάριν.

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they have, by the incidental influence of letters alone, been enabled to transmit themselves to posterity as nations worthy of immortal honours. It is time that this cant of referring all excellence to Greeks and Romans was at an end. Modern nations, under the benign and humanizing influence of Christianity, can exhibit more instances of private devotion, of public spirit, of heroism, and every excellence in arts or arms, than can be assembled together from all the boastful and lying annals of Greece and Rome.

\* Orat. pro Flacc.

But I turn with pleasure from this unpleasing subject, to the consideration of their harmonious, expressive, and flexible language. The Romaic, or modern Greek, is, according to Christopoulos (the Greek Tom Moore, and an accurate philologist besides), a compound of the Eolic and Doric dialects of the ancient language. To those who have spent years in acquiring a superficial knowledge of ancient Greek, the modern will present many novelties. As I have already hinted, the student fresh from college, and blooming with academic honours, will be shocked and grieved to find that, Grecian though he be, the Romaic is to him an unknown tongue. Thus he will find that *η*, and *υ*, and the diphthongs *ει*, *οι*, and *υι* have all the same sound with the Italian *e*, or the English *e* in *these*; *ι* and the diphthong *αι* are identical with our *a* in *hate*; and *ου* is sounded like our *u*. The consonants partake of similar changes: *β* has the sound of *v*; *δ* is pronounced like *th* in *this*, while *θ* is scarcely distinguishable, except by the thicker sound of *th* in *that*. The English *b* is expressed by the letters *μπ*, and *d* by *ντ*. Independent of these differences, they employ accents as a guide to pronunciation, and reject the aspirates in reading, although they are still used in print. They have, besides, introduced an indefinite article, *εναρ*, which was much wanted in the ancient Greek; they prefix the pronoun to the verb, and in their conjugations have adopted the use of auxiliaries, and thus assimilate it more to the modern languages of Europe. Finally, their language has received many new words, arising out of new circumstances, and its acknowledged ductility has been frequently tested of late years. Thus, for steamboat they have not only *πυροελαφ* (fire-boat), but also *ατμοκίνητον* (moved by vapour).

Many corruptions have been introduced which some may regard as foul blots, tending to mar the purity of the language, but which at some future period will be perhaps considered as evidences of its wonderful copiousness. These have been watched and noted with the mousing keenness of



philological criticism by Korai and by Benthelos of Athens. They have originated according to the proximity of their European or oriental masters, and of this the word *θυρα*, a door, presents a striking example. In the remote islands where the intercourse with foreigners has been rare, the antique original word maintains its ground; while in the Morea it has been Italianized into *porta*, and in the Fanar it takes the form of *παι* from the Turkish.

We have said enough to satisfy the reader that the young man who comes to this country charged with ancient Greek will find that he must not only acquire a new alphabet, but a new vocabulary, and that his spurious pronunciation will prove a serious obstacle to the acquisition of modern Greek. The history of the origin of the present outlandish system of pronouncing Greek as taught in our colleges, and which has made it an unintelligible gibberish, is very curious, but it would be trespassing too far on the reader's patience to repeat it here. It gave rise to furious contentions, and a solemn edict or decree of the chancellor of the University of Cambridge, in 1542, upon this subject, is so amusing that I cannot refrain from inserting a part of it in this place. It is not quoted for its classical elegance, although it proceeds from a scholar, nor for its mild and temperate character, although it is written by a divine; but as a specimen of the scholastic conceit and haughty tone which characterized the literary controversies of that day. "Every man," says the reverend chancellor, "whatever may be his literary pretensions, who adopts the reformed or Erasmian pronunciation, is to be considered a blockhead; if a member of the academic senate (a professor), he is to be expelled; if a candidate, he is to be denied all honours; if preparing for college, to be refused admission; and finally, if a lad commencing his studies, he is to be soundly whipped and sent home!"

As we threaded our way through the dark and crooked streets of the Fanar, we were struck with their desolate

and deserted aspect, and we were frequently compelled to go the whole length of a street before we could meet with an individual to direct us on our way. We were at first disposed to attribute this to the late revolution, which had thinned the Greek population of the Fanar, but in our subsequent rambles over the whole city, we remarked the same solitary appearance in the Turkish quarter. Much of this deserted appearance is no doubt to be attributed to the hour, for at this time all are engaged in despatching their midday meal, and the male portion of the families are engaged in the bazar, or other trading parts of the city. Independent of these considerations, there is great reason to believe that the population of Constantinople has been much exaggerated. It is not uncommon to traverse extensive districts in the heart of the city which have been devastated by fire, and are left in their primitive desolation; and the number and extent of these abandoned quarters should be well known before a stranger can form even a conjecture respecting the actual population. In the usual statements are comprised the thirty or forty villages lining the Bosphorus, which give a very exaggerated idea of the population of the capital, and would be as erroneous as to include a circuit of thirty miles around New-York, or the villages along the Delaware as far as Bristol, in recording the population of Philadelphia.

The difficulty of procuring any accurate statistical information in Turkey has already been alluded to, and in the absence of facts we are compelled to resort to data often as wild as those employed by the celebrated statician Elagabalus, who endeavoured to discover from the quantity of spiders' webs the population of Rome.\* General Andreossi assumed as data the daily consumption of bread and water, which seems scarcely more satisfactory than the spiders' webs of Elagabalus; for the only limit to the consumption

\* Gibbon, v. 284.

of water among the Turks is the supply, which varies at different seasons, and if its present quantity was doubled or trebled it would still be consumed. The amount of food consumed would afford surer data, but I am at a loss to understand how any authentic documents of this kind could be procured. At any rate, Andreossi estimated from these data the population of the city, including Galata, Pera, Scutari, and the villages along the Bosphorus, at 700,000 souls. This estimate was made fifteen years ago, and from my own observations far exceeds its amount at the present day. To the city proper I should be disposed to attribute a population of 250,000, and of these nearly 100,000 are Greeks, Armenians, and Jews. An intelligent Hebrew gentleman informs me that there are 12,000 Jewish families in and about Constantinople, which gives a population of 70,000. This statement may be depended upon, as it was taken from the books of his nation, and of this number 30,000 reside in the capital. The number of Armenians is about the same, so that the population of Constantinople alone may be thus estimated :

Turks . . . . .	160,000
Greeks . . . . .	30,000
Armenians . . . . .	30,000
Jews . . . . .	30,000
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	250,000

It was our intention to visit the walls of the city, but it cost us many a weary step, and as many turnings and doublings as a hunted hare, before we reached the Aigry Kapoosi, or crooked gate. There are, in fact, two gates ; and from the oblique direction in which they are placed with regard to each other, it has received this name. It is here that the triple line of wall commences, and extends to the Sea of Marmora. There are five of these gates in the wall on the land side, of which the most interesting is the Tope Kapoosi, or cannon gate, next but one to the Aigry

**Kapoosi**, and remarkable as the gate through which **Mohammed II.** made his public and victorious entry into the city.

Immediately upon issuing from the walls we found ourselves in a dreary solitude; and as we followed the direction of the walls along an old road, apparently contemporaneous with the Greek empire, we did not meet a single human being, nor scarcely the vestige of a human habitation. Nearly as far as the eye could reach, nothing was presented to our view but extensive and now abandoned cemeteries. The total absence of trees lent an additional gloom to this dismal "marble waste;" and after toiling for some time under a burning sun, we were reminded by the lateness of the hour of the necessity of returning to the city.

The walls of Constantinople are built of alternate ranges of stone and brick, are of immense thickness, and still retain their ancient battlements and towers. The outer ditch is twenty-five or thirty feet wide. We had no means of ascertaining their height; but from the road we could not see any of the buildings of the city. As military defences they are utterly worthless; for the very first discharge of Russian artillery will shake these tottering and earthquake-riven walls to their very foundations.

*Thursday.* Plague! Plague! This morning our Greek servant **Demetri** came into the room, and exclaimed, in accents of horror, "*Voilà, monsieur, deux accidens de plus!*" We have, indeed, had rumours of plague and cholera in the place for several days, but from the timid and gossiping character of the village, I considered them as unworthy of attention. Our worthy princess has been the image of despair; and a lamp, which is kept burning night and day before a paltry daub of the Virgin Mary, attests the sincerity of her fears. The indifference with which I treated her dolorous stories of plague had at first lowered me in her estimation, and she had expressed an opinion that I was worse than a Turk; but when I gravely recommended her to redouble her supplications to the Panagia, and that she

might then bid defiance to plague and cholera, she observed, with great simplicity, that I was not more than half a heretic after all.

To-day, however, we have undoubted evidence of the existence of plague. A house next to us is shut up, and the Franks who are obliged to pass it cross over cautiously to the other side of the street. Two persons have already died, and three others are said to be at the point of death. An Armenian physician, who is known here under the name of the plague doctor, and is in the service of government, has made an official visit, and his declaration that it is plague in its worst form leaves no room for skepticism. From my window, this day, I noticed a man in the street struggling between two others who were endeavouring to drag him along. In this they were assisted by a Turkish officer of police, who quickened his pace by the occasional application of a horsewhip over his head and shoulders. It was one of the persons who had been employed in burying the plague corpses; and in consequence of his services on that occasion, they were thus unceremoniously thrusting him out of the village. This reminds me of a similar circumstance which occurred at Kadikeui, when the plague broke out there a few weeks ago. The persons attacked were forcibly removed out of the village into the adjoining fields, the house was carefully fumigated and drenched with water, and all the contagious or infectible articles of furniture or dress were destroyed by fire. When this operation had been performed, the persons employed in it were driven pell-mell into the sea, and there compelled to remain until it was supposed that they were sufficiently purified. But in sober seriousness, it is scarcely possible to conceive a more appalling visitation than that of the epidemic plague. Other diseases, however severe and malignant, such as yellow fever, or however hopeless, may receive some alleviation from the skill of physicians, the attention and sympathy of friends, and the consolations of religion afforded by

ministers of the gospel ; but with this loathsome disease, the poor wretch, whatever may be his rank or station in life, is instantly deserted by his medical attendants, and by his nearest and dearest relatives. In the eloquent language of my friend Dr. Walsh, the ravages of this distemper have been so great that it is still looked upon with the same helpless terror as in the darkest ages of ignorance and superstition. When any person is seized with it, he is immediately abandoned to his fate. No medical man will dare approach him, on pain of being himself ruined ; all rational mode of cure is neglected as useless, and the aid of medicine is given up in despair. That sympathy which our common nature yields to the sick is here denied. The sick of the plague is put out of the pale of pity, and only looked upon as some noxious being, whom it ought to be not only allowable, but meritorious, to destroy ; and so the disease proceeds, rending asunder the ties of families, extinguishing the common charities of life, eradicating the best feelings of our nature, till at length it has become one of the most dreadful moral as well as physical evils—at once the scourge and the scorn of humanity.

This dreaded plague is a species of typhus fever, which is accompanied by glandular swellings ; and is not more dangerous than the ordinary typhus, which I have seen prevailing in Scotland, and which left, in the winter of 1818, a corpse in almost every cabin in Ireland. It has been observed to be checked in Turkey by cold weather ; while in Egypt extreme heat has effected the same thing. A few cases occur every year ; but occasionally it assumes the epidemic form, and its ravages are then of an awful character. In 1812 it carried off, in and about Constantinople, 220,000, of which 120,000 were Turks. In conformity with the laws which govern typhus, this disease is observed to break out with peculiar violence in times of famine, and it rarely attacks the rich and well-fed part of the population. I was

cautioned against dieting myself to ward off this disease, and indeed the use of spirits was warmly recommended. It is supposed that the rigid temperance of the Turks renders them more obnoxious to its attacks; but whether that be the case or not, it is certain that the Franks, who live upon the fat of the land, and wash it down with copious draughts of wine, are rarely affected by this disease.

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## CHAPTER XIX.

Excursion to the Giant's Grave—Dervises—Classical Superstition—Tekkay, or Chapel—Geology—Genoese Castle—Guebres—Masonry—Kavawki—Raki—Aquarians—Boston Particular—Turkish Doctor.

**TEMPTED** by a lovely morning, we crossed the Bosphorus to-day to the Asiatic side, to visit a lofty mountain known as the Giant's grave, and which forms a conspicuous landmark as you approach Constantinople from the Euxine. After a toilsome struggle against the steep sides of the hill, varied by stopping occasionally to gather the numerous wild flowers which sprang up in our path, we gained the summit. Here we found a level verdant lawn, shaded by a grove of large chestnut-trees, and a tekkay or chapel of a troop of dervises bounded one side of this natural platform. On the other side was a slight kiosk or summer-house for the occasional use of the sultan; and this with a row of low cottages constituted the village, which from its isolated situation depends solely for its support upon the generosity of those who visit it from motives of curiosity or devotion. Seated upon the grass under these lofty trees, and looking over the wide expanse of the Euxine

now covered with innumerable sails,\* our coffee was served up by a stout, ferocious-looking dervis, whose high conical white hat was not the least grotesque part of his dress. His bare legs were swelled up to a frightful size by some disease analogous to elephantiasis, doubtless the effect of intemperance. These dervises correspond in some measure to the monks of Catholic countries, except that they do not take the vow of celibacy. Like their European brethren, they have in general but ragged reputations, with the exception here and there of one of superior sanctity, who is much caressed and idolized by the old ladies of both sexes. Upon expressing a wish to see the grave, which was the chief object of our visit, the dervise unlocked a door behind the chapel, and with sundry mysterious signs and gesticulations invited us to enter. The enclosure is about sixty feet by thirty, and is surrounded by a high stone wall. Occupying the greatest part of this enclosure is a flower-bed fifty feet in length, with a turbaned stone at each end, and this is generally believed to be the grave of a giant. A narrow path permitted us to walk entirely round the raised central part, and to marvel at the size of this wonderful saint. We remarked a small laurel tree covered with little rags of cotton, silk, or woollen, the votive offerings of ignorance and credulity. This is a very ancient and classical superstition, perpetuated to the present day alike by Christian and Mussulman. We remember when very young being struck with the image of some fine old Greek or Roman, suspending his votive offer-

\* "The winds swept down the Euxine, and the wave  
Broke foaming o'er the blue Symplegades;  
'Tis a grand sight from off the Giant's grave  
To watch the progress of these rolling seas,  
Between the Bosphorus as they lash and lave  
Europe and Asia—you being quite at ease.  
There's not a sea the passenger e'er pukes in  
Tutns up more dangerous breakers than the Euxine."



ings at the shrine of his tutelar deity ; to our youthful imaginations, it appeared as if the piety was almost merged in the poetry of the act, and we were disposed to regard as a superior race the beings who could thus throw a grace over the simple act of devotion. The same thing is here enacted before our eyes, and the reality leaves one in doubt whether laughter, contempt, or pity should predominate. Strip the action of the graceful veil with which poetry has invested it, and it amounts to this : an old woman has a toothache, or a young one a lover ; they hasten to the nearest saint, and hang a dirty rag upon a bush, with the confident hope that both plagues may be mollified. Old men in want of heirs, young ones in want of wives, the poor panting after money, and the rich gasping for health, all resort to a shrine like this, to obtain, by the simple process of a votive offering, the consummation of their wishes.

Our filthy friend the dervise had the kindness to enlighten our ignorance on the subject of the huge man-monster whose remains are supposed to have mouldered beneath this spot. His name was Hooshah, or Yooshah, corresponding to Joshua or Jesus. He was a nephew of Moses, or, in other words, a son of Aaron, a mighty prophet, and second only to Mohammed himself, for all prayers or supplications passed through him directly to the Deity. The dervise further instructed us that a part only, namely the head and shoulders, of the prophet reposed here, but with all the discretion of a person who is in possession of an important secret, he evaded our inquiries as to what disposition had been made of the remainder of the prophet's body. A favourite recreation of this prophet was to sit down on this mountain and wash his feet in the Bosphorus, which flows at its base a mile distant. Another of his amusements was to sit down in the Bosphorus, block up the water from the Euxine with his back, and when it had reached up to his shoulders he would suddenly jump up, and the now freed waters would produce sad deluges,

which modern geologists have thought proper to attribute to volcanic agencies. From the appearance of a mortise in the marble at one end of the grave, one of our companions suggested that a cross may have once been erected here, and that in fact the Turks have only taken at second hand a pseudo Christian superstition. In point of fact, however, the origin of this monstrous fable goes back to a more remote period than the Turkish, or even Greek empire, and is simply a pagan idolatry under a new name. The earliest, and of course the most authentic accounts, make it to be the grave of Amycus, a sachein or king of Bithynia, who was in the habit of levying a toll upon every canoe which passed up the Bosphorus; and being a man of great personal prowess, he was enabled to enforce his demands, like one of Homer's heroes, with his ponderous fists. He met finally with his death in a boxing-match with one of the lucida sidera of those days, the celebrated Pollux. The whole story is detailed at length in the *Argonautica* of Apollonius, and is one of those amusing and instructive incidents which are so requisite to be learned by the finished scholar. Other authorities, among whom we may mention Dionysius of Byzantium, a familiar author to most of our readers, has given another version of the story. Honest Dionysius solemnly avers that this spot is the true and genuine bed of Hercules. "*Herculis KAINH hoc est lectus.*" We are satisfied.

Near the headstone of this respectable demigod, a piece of money was ostentatiously displayed as a hint to the curious traveller that the smallest donation would be thankfully received. We were then invited to enter the *tekkay* or chapel, so called to distinguish it from the *djammi*, or mosque proper. The word mosque is unknown to the Turks, and it is difficult to account for its general currency in all the European languages, when it is not even an oriental term. The Arabic *mesjid*, or assembly, approaches nearest to it, but this seems a forced construction. This

chapel differs in no respect from the ordinary mosques, being totally devoid of furniture or ornament, even plainer than a Quaker meeting-house, for it has not a single seat or pew. The floor was covered with straw matting; on the walls were suspended boards with sentences from the Koran, resembling a Lancasterian school; and a small circular niche in the east wall, with a large wax candle on each side, completed the whole inventory of this oriental chapel. Our curiosity was soon satisfied, and we resumed our boots and shoes at the door, after bestowing the expected *backshish*. We took our leave of these dirty devotees, who in the selection of this airy abode have evinced more taste and judgment than one would be disposed to give them credit for, who noticed their filthy appearance, and was acquainted with their infamous practices.

Before parting, let me attempt to convey an idea of their appearance, in order that the reader may, in reading the *Arabian Nights*, figure to himself that delightful grotesque animal an Eastern dervise. Imagine, then, a stout-looking heathen, without a vestige of linen about him, a coarse woollen robe envelopes his whole body, his feet and legs bare, his face almost concealed by a filthy, matted beard, and a high conical cap without a brim, completes the picture of the external man. To this must be added the most brutal ignorance, the grossest superstition, and a life often stained with the foulest vices.

This is only the description of a single species, but it may serve to identify the whole family. If you meet a maniacal vagabond wrapped up in a leopard's skin, swinging a box suspended before him by chains, another with a large club thickly studded with spikes, another with a box of vipers, or a fourth screaming aloud to the detriment of his own throat and of all the ears in his neighbourhood, you may safely set them down as dervises. They are in fact all jugglers of different degrees, some dealing in tricks of legerdemain, while others impose upon the ignorant by

**sanctimonious** grimaces, and loudly-repeated prayers in the streets and market-places. The well educated Turks consider and treat them as regular rogues; but their influence among the poorer classes is considerable, although it has diminished greatly of late years. They formerly possessed great power, and rendered themselves formidable even to the throne. The present sultan has taken them in hand, and by dint of strangling some scores and exiling a few hundreds, the remainder, bating their idleness and roguery, are as submissive and orderly as any class of subjects in his dominions. There was formerly a sect called the howling dervises, whose peculiar worship consisted in yelling and screaming like so many incarnate devils. They are usually visited by strangers, and most books of travels in these countries are embellished with an account of their odd practices. I inquired after them from our worthy friends of the Giant's grave, but the only answer was an expressive shrug. They might, as we afterward learned, have been permitted to howl to the present day, had they not undertaken to meddle with the acts of the government. Their apparent sanctity gave them no protection, their voices are no longer heard, and the story is that they were all exiled. In one point of view these Eastern dervises may be considered with interest. They are in all probability the last remnants of the idolatrous priests of Baal, alluded to in the Scriptures, and the ministers of that Arabian idolatry which Mohammed declared himself to be sent as a messenger to destroy.

The geological structure of the mountain which we have just ascended is very simple. The base near the seashore where we landed is composed of an argillaceous schist, exhibiting peculiarly contorted strata. A few yards higher up we met with a dark gray transition limestone, which is extensively quarried, and converted on the spot into building lime for the use of the public works in the capital. In one of these quarries we noticed a large vertical vein or

dike derived from the underlying rock, which in the progress of blasting and quarrying had been left untouched, and presented the appearance of an artificial wall with irregular turrets and battlements. The fact that veins of one rock penetrate the substance of another is well known to geologists, although the inferences deduced from these phenomena are not yet in accordance with each other, or at least they have not thrown the strong light upon the relative ages of rocks, or the various epochs of their formation, which has been perhaps too confidently anticipated. For instance, in this place the limestone has been traversed by veins of an older rock, while in the island of Arran we have seen the primitive granite traversed by veins of basalt. As we continued to ascend the hill, a soft friable wacke, like that of the opposite hill on the European side of the Bosphorus, made its appearance, and continued to the top of the mountain. The resemblance was further heightened by the numerous quartz boulders scattered about on the surface.

Upon quitting the Giant's grave we directed our steps by a circuitous route around the head of a ravine, to the ruins of an old castle, which forms one of the most conspicuous and picturesque features on the shores of the Bosphorus. The fields here were uncultivated, and covered with a species of cistus (*C. crispus*), many of which, even at this late season, were still in bloom. The massy ruin is commonly known as the Genoese castle, and its construction, I am not aware upon what authority, is attributed to that enterprising people. It is situated upon an isolated hill, sloping down to the water's edge, and, before the introduction of "villanous saltpetre," must have been impregnable. The walls are of colossal magnitude, forty feet in height, and enclose an area of several acres. The towers were supposed to be one hundred feet high, and the ruins of a wall, with a series of towers, may be still traced to the water's edge. The stones employed in its construction are of great size, chiefly

a white vesicular limestone, which must have been transported from a distance, as I do not recollect to have seen it in any place about the Bosphorus. These stones are laid in courses six feet in depth, alternating with courses, three feet deep, of thin Roman bricks ; with these were mingled other rocks of volcanic origin from the vicinity, and portions of columns, and even Turkish gravestones, had been put in requisition.

We entered a low arch, and found ourselves in the court, which was occupied by a few deserted houses, and overrun with weeds. On one of the towers a Greek inscription, surrounding a cross, was noticed, but I am unable to offer any explanation concerning it. It seems, however, to controvert the notion that the castle was built by the Genoese. In this dreary court the olive and fig-tree appeared to thrive remarkably well, protected from the piercing blasts from the Euxine by its high walls. They grow, indeed, about Constantinople in the open air ; but, except in sheltered situations, their fruit cannot be said to be either of a good size or well flavoured.

There is a tradition, that, some fifty or a hundred years ago, a sultan established in this castle a colony, which he had caused to be brought from the interior of Asia. They are said to have been intended as a counterpoise to the formidable power of the Janizaries. In some recent works upon Turkey, it is stated that this colony still exists within the walls of this castle, refusing to intermarry except among themselves, and speaking a language unknown to the people around them. Some have asserted that they were the ancient Guebres, or fire-worshippers ; and we had made up our minds that, at any rate, we should fall in with a troop of oriental gipsies. The result of our visit enabled us to arrange the whole tradition under the class of travellers' stories. The barking of a solitary cur brought out a decent-looking Turk, who, after inquiring our business, offered to show us the curiosities of the place. Our first

question was, of course, about the Guebres, and, after a compassionate smile at our credulity, he gave us this brief account of the little clan of which he was the head. Their ancestors came originally from that part of the coast of Asia, bordering upon the Black Sea, which includes the ancient Greek settlement of Sinope, and is now designated as the pachalik of Osmanli. His language was purely Turkish, and he spoke no other. His own name, Ibrahim, and those of his numerous family, were also purely Turkish. They cultivated the vine in the deep and luxuriant valley at the foot of the castle, and married (please God) whenever and wherever they could find wives. His friends had all migrated to other regions, and his was the last family remaining. The great well in the court of the castle had fallen in, and he was not rich enough to repair it. The want of water was driving him away too, and he was then making preparations for the removal of his family. Such was his plain unvarnished account, upon which a marvellous superstructure has been raised by idle or ignorant travellers.

The walls of this castle are, as we have before remarked, of great solidity, and it would seem that nothing short of an earthquake could rend them asunder. This, however, has actually happened in several places; and the fallen masses are so large, that until you approach quite near they have the appearance of small towers. This effect is increased by their being covered with the ivy, which gives a verdant appearance to the greater part of the castle. The cement must have been excellent to have kept together such large masses in their fall. Upon examining the mortar, it was found that pieces of broken tiles, or bricks, and charcoal were mixed up with it, and probably added to its cohesiveness.

After rambling about the castle, and making many hazardous attempts to scale the walls, we took our leave of Ibrahim, and prepared to return home. We descended by a precipitous path to the pretty village of Kavawki (poplar

village), pleasantly lying on the Asiatic shore of the Bosphorus, and sheltered from the winds of the Euxine by the promontory of Fil Boornoo. Its situation renders it a desirable haven for the smaller Turkish vessels navigating the Black Sea, who lie here until a southerly wind gives assurance that they may trust themselves out of the Bosphorus. Exhausted by our long walk under a broiling sun, we naturally endeavoured, upon entering the village, to procure some refreshments. There could have been no stronger proof of the village being exclusively a Turkish one than the fact that we were nearly an hour before we could procure a glass of wine or of rakee. After many inquiries, we were directed to an obscure lane on the outskirts of the village, where, in the miserable shed of a dirty Greek, we found the object of our search. Rakee is a light, pleasant cordial, distilled from the pulp of grapes after the wine has been pressed out. It is flavoured with angelica, or aniseed, with the addition of mastic. As this last resin is only soluble in alcohol, the addition of a little water precipitates the mastic, and the mixture has a milky hue. The best is said to come from Scio. The difficulty of procuring even a glass of light wine was a pleasing evidence of the temperance of the Turks, although they have been exposed to the contagious neighbourhood of more polished nations for four hundred years. It excited a feeling of regret, that, in despite of the example of our temperance associations, millions of gallons of New-England rum are sent out from our country to corrupt and demoralize the most temperate people on the face of the globe. The Turks may indeed be said to hold the same tenets with the Christian sect of Aquarians, who flourished 200 years after Christ, and whose principles, after a slumber of sixteen centuries, are attempted to be revived among the Christians of the present day. According to Epiphanius, those ancient prototypes of our temperance societies abstained



wholly from wine, and forbade the use of it even in the sacrament.

From information upon which I can rely, it appears that in six months alone of the year 1830, there were shipped from the United States to Turkey twelve million gallons of rum. There is reason, however, to believe that this was an unusual quantity, owing to peculiar circumstances; but still the annual supply is very great. To the honour of the Turks we should state, that little of this is consumed in their own country. It is intended for the Black Sea, where it is distributed over Georgia, Armenia, and Persia. In these countries we regret to add that "Boston particular" is much relished, notwithstanding the praiseworthy efforts of our pious and zealous missionaries.

It is, however, well known that the use of wine, although forbidden by the Koran, depends very much upon the example of the reigning sultan. Some of these have given themselves up to it, and their characters have accordingly been handled with much severity by their national historians. Of this number were Bajazet I. and II. Sulieman I., on the contrary, repressed it, by punishing drunkards with great severity. His son and successor, Selim II., revoked these edicts, gave himself up to every excess, and has descended to posterity with the title of *mesth*, or drunkard, attached to his name. Under his successors the prohibition against wine was again enforced; but it was reserved for Murad IV. to abolish it entirely: he even included coffee, tobacco, and opium in the same sweeping clause; and punished the least infraction with death. His chief physician was suspected of taking opium; and upon one occasion was detected, in the presence of the sultan, with a large quantity about his person. He assured the sultan that it was a weak and harmless compound, in which there was little opium. "In that case," said the sultan, "no harm can result to you from swallowing the whole, which you must do immediately." The poor doctor was compelled to com-

ply with the barbarous mandate, and died a few hours afterward. At the present day, no notice is taken by the police of an intoxicated Christian, unless he should be riotous, or dead drunk in the street; but if they detect a Mussulman, the bastinado and imprisonment follow as a matter of course.

But let us not leave the pretty village of Kavawki without noticing its principal street, which faces the pebbly margin of the Bosphorus. A row of arbours extends along in front of the houses, shaded by the wide-spreading platanus, while over the arbours hangs the luxuriant vine, loaded with the finest grapes. While taking our coffee and pipes under one of these arbours, the total absence of Greeks around us enabled us to comprehend the general quietude and repose of the Turkish character. Although the port and every harbour was filled with Turks, some engaged in selling watermelons from huge piles upon the beach, others in playing a sort of game of draughts with pebbles, and others enjoying a dreamy existence over their pipes, yet scarcely a sound was heard to interrupt the tinkling of several fountains which poured forth their grateful streams around us. While enjoying this novel scene, and looking out upon the now placid bosom of the Bosphorus, over the curiously shaped and rigged vessels from the Asiatic shores of the Black Sea, with their bows resting upon the sandy beach, we were much amused with a village-doctor who entered our harbour, and commenced, with becoming gravity, a part of the labours of his profession. As this was the first specimen of a Turkish M.D. that we had seen, his avocations naturally attracted our notice. He first extracted from a small bag, which he carried in his girdle, a white powder resembling magnesia, but which may possibly have been an equally valuable article—wheat-flour. With this he commenced making pills, occasionally dipping it into a little shell containing some coloured water, and then rolling it out upon the bench. Like Abernethy, he seemed to

depend upon the efficacy of a single pill, and, in all probability, his cures were as frequent as those of that unpolished physician. The satisfied air and manner of this village Esculapius entertained us exceedingly as he proceeded to wrap up the pills, in papers containing a half-dozen each; and then, drawing forth his long brass inkstand, he marked each paper with some cabalistic characters, which of course enhanced the value of its contents. A troop of Turkish boys were surveying his operations with much interest, and whenever one of the pills happened to drop out of his hands, there was a general rush for it among the little urchins, and the lucky dog who seized it swallowed it immediately and ran off with all speed beyond the uplifted staff of the doctor. It would seem that if his pills did no good, they could do little harm, which is more than can be said of many articles of the *materia medica*.

## CHAPTER XX.

Panic of Plague—Domestic Quarantines—Contagion—American Cottons—Commerce.

THE inhabitants are putting themselves into quarantine in all directions, and dismay is depicted upon every face. Our next-door neighbour Dr. Visconti, a young Italian physician of great promise, attended the family before alluded to, and seven of its members have died within the last three days. The doctor stoutly maintained that the disease was not plague; but he was taken ill himself yesterday morning. I endeavoured to learn his symptoms, but without success. The fatal bubo has, however, appeared, with excruciating pain in the bowels, and last evening 150 leeches were applied, but without producing any relief. It may serve to convey some idea of the panic occasioned by this disease, when it is stated that the poor doctor was obliged to offer a thousand piastres before he could induce any one to bring him the leeches, and then he was compelled to apply them himself. At twelve o'clock to-day his corpse was carried past our house in a common deal box, with a black cross painted upon it, borne by three Greeks, who seemed to have taken the precautionary measure of getting most conspicuously drunk. It is said, that shortly after death his body became perfectly black, marking the highest stage of putridity and malignancy. The municipal authorities have ordered the inhabitants of this and the adjoining houses to leave the premises, the furniture to be burnt, and the building to be thoroughly drenched and fumigated.

Domestic quarantines are becoming more rigorous, and are only to be equalled in absurdity by those public quaran-

tines established by law in other countries, where more enlightened views of disease, and where common sense with regard to the nature of contagion, might be supposed to prevail. As these domestic quarantines present some peculiarities, it may not be amiss to describe them in detail. Whenever their necessity is supposed to be obvious, the doors of the house are carefully locked and bolted, and all provisions and other necessities are passed through a temporary wooden barrier. The servants and children are not permitted to leave the house, and no friend is allowed to enter, unless his family have adopted the same quarantine. Even if admitted, all avoid him as if the mortal symptoms had already appeared upon him, and a chair with a wooden seat is placed for his reception in the middle of the room. Tablecloths and curtains are discarded, and a brasier of hot coals is placed in the hall, upon which branches of heath are occasionally thrown to fumigate the apartments. Every article for the use of the family is brought by a person engaged for that purpose. These, if bulky, such as cotton-stuffs, vegetables, or meat, are thrown into a large tub of fresh or salt-water, where they remain until supposed to be sufficiently purified. Even linen from the washerwoman's hands is again compelled to pass this watery ordeal; letters, or similar small articles, are dipped into hot vinegar, and then smoked in a box prepared for that purpose, with which all the Frank houses are furnished. The list of contagious and non-contagious articles would be too ample to enumerate, but a few may be mentioned, to exhibit their absurdity.

Cotton, woollen, paper, and leather are declared to be highly contagious; while wood, iron, and the metals generally, are not so. Some things are capable of transmitting infection in a higher degree than others: thus, cats and rats convey infection with great certainty; but dogs only in a moderate degree. Even among dogs there is a great difference; for those with a curled woolly coat are almost as

dangerous as cats or rats. Some articles are dangerous according to their temperature: thus, bread, cakes, puddings, and pies, when hot, will communicate the plague; but if allowed to cool, they are perfectly harmless. Others again are contagious in one form, but not in another: for instance, straw in a bed or cushion is very dangerous; but the same article manufactured into mats or hats becomes a non-conductor of plague. In the same way a silver teaspoon will not convey contagion, but a silver dollar is only to be handled after due purification. There are no limits to the articles which may extend the plague; and birds, and even flies, have been known to carry it from one place to another. In Tuscany, they date a plague from the killing a crow that came from Corsica, where the plague then raged; even flies are accused of having transmitted plague from one chamber to another. We might enlarge upon this subject, but enough has been said to show how completely an ignorant and puerile terror is capable of obscuring the last glimmerings of reason and common sense. It is far from our wish to deny the existence of contagion in toto; but the ordinary precautions used with regard to the malignant typhus of Europe have been proved by experience amply sufficient to protect the medical attendants.

*Sunday.* A Jew pedlar is shouting under my window, with a villanous nasal twang, and in a mongrel Turko-Hispano dialect, "Amelikani pagno," or American cotton. The reputation of our domestic manufactures, I was aware, had extended over our own vast southern continent; but I was not prepared to find that it had penetrated the regions of the grand seignior. They are in great request here; but it was difficult to ascertain the quantity annually consumed. The article termed sheetings usually sells at ten cents per yard, all charges paid. Our chief trade with Turkey consists in what are termed colonial produce; to wit, sugar, coffee, and rum; but there is great room for the introduction of our home manufactures. Cheap furniture

of all kinds, such as are shipped to South America, would find a ready sale here ; cut-nails would also, after a certain period, be a valuable article of commerce. The credit of our cotton stuffs is much impaired by the immense quantities of a counterfeit article with which the English manufacturers have deluged the market ; they are put up precisely like our own, and bear the stamp of some well-known American establishment.

Our imports are opium and other drugs, raw and manufactured silks, and latterly considerable quantities of wool. The amount of opium annually raised in Turkey is estimated at 252,000 lbs. ; of this, 1500 cases or bags of 140 lbs. each are purchased by government, and about 300 bags more are smuggled. It is unfortunate for the true interests of Turkey that her silk is also a government monopoly, which, of course, renders it a precarious article of commerce.\* The quantity annually taken off by us we have no means of ascertaining, but we learn that it is upon the increase. Wool is becoming an article of great importance ; and when more attention is paid to the sorting and cleaning, the demand will doubtless increase. Shipments of this article have become very extensive to the United States within the present year. The port of Constantinople is exceedingly safe for shipping, and the charges are very low, not exceeding forty or fifty dollars for a vessel of 200 tons. The greatest drawback upon its trade is caused by the delays incident to passing the Hellespont and Bosphorus : these might be obviated by a line of tug steamboats, managed by individuals or the government. The duties upon foreign articles are mere trifles, and have been so managed

\* *Turkish Weights and Measures.*—These vary so much in different parts of the empire that it is difficult to obtain accurate information. The following, however, is believed to be the corresponding value at Constantinople :—The oke, 2½ lbs. ; kintal, 125 lbs. ; teffee of silk, 4½ lbs. ; chekee of opium, 1½ lbs. ; do. goat's wool, 5½ lbs. ; do. provisions, 44 okes ; do. wood, 180 okes ; metical, ⅓ oz. ; peek, 27 inches.

that it will be almost impossible to raise them. In all their transactions with the powers of Europe the Turkish government have been most egregiously duped; for their treaties have been so framed that the Turks are unable to raise the duties on foreign imports, either to protect their own manufactures, or for the purposes of revenue. We do not profess to be versed in the metaphysics of commerce, and indeed have given up the idea of ever being made to comprehend its intricacies, when we were instructed that it was far more beneficial to pay a foreigner six cents for an article, than to purchase it from a neighbour and fellow-countryman at the same price, or who will take something from us which will be an equivalent. The advocates for free-trade will find a beautiful example of its operation in Turkey. The duties, as we have said, are almost nominal; and, as a consequence, domestic industry is at a stand. England furnishes them with cloths, rat-traps, and pen-knives; France with caps, confectionaries, and shoes; while Russia obligingly supplies them with bread.

There is a slight difference between the duties laid upon the goods of foreign nations: Russia pays the least, and in return taxes the products of Turkey the highest; besides excluding her entirely from the recently captured province of Mingrelia,\* except at two ports—Redout Kalay and Anapa. Our goods pay at present, until the treaty shall be

\* The mention of Mingrelia leads us to notice an inland commerce which is carried in part through this province, and which far exceeds our traffic across the continent to the shores of the Pacific ocean. An article, manufactured in Prussia, and called Prussian cloth, is sent to Moscow, where it pays an entry-duty of 8 per cent., from whence it is sent by land to Kiakhta, the most westerly province of China. A distance of more than 6000 miles is thus traversed by land, and the profits are so considerable that a million of dollars is annually invested. The time consumed is about two hundred days.

The Russian occupation of this province must be viewed with some uneasiness by England, for in two months, at least, a Russian army can be transported from the Black Sea to the Persian Gulf; from whence an attack upon the English possessions could be made with great ease.



ratified, a duty of 3 per cent., and 15 per cent. besides upon the whole amount of the 3 per cent. duty. By the new treaty the duty on coffee is about one mill the lb., on sugars 4½ cents per cwt., on cottons per piece 3½ cents.

Although our present trade with Turkey does not take off a great amount of our own products, yet there is little doubt but that a great increase must ultimately take place. Since by our treaty, the navigation of the Black Sea is laid open, a new field for enterprise is before us, and new sources of wealth displayed. The commerce with Persia, for instance, will at some future day be a matter of much consequence. Our enterprising rivals the English have already entered upon this new career, and are now prosecuting a successful trade through the seaport of Trebizond. Goods sent in this direction to Persia should be put up in small bales, weighing 150 lbs. each; four of these make a camel's load. The direct trade with Russia through the Black Sea has not yet proved a source of much profit, but it can hardly fail of being extensively carried on in future. An intercourse in this direction will not be subject to interruptions from the winter season, but may be carried on at all periods of the year.

There is another and more important point of view in which this trade is to be regarded. We allude to the carrying-trade between the ports of Turkey, Russia, and Italy, which is now chiefly in the hands of the Greeks and Austrians, and is said to give continual employment to 2000 vessels. Some French, English, and Italian vessels are engaged in this trade, but their number is inconsiderable. The French trade with the Levant at one time exceeded that of any other nation, but has been gradually on the decline.\* It is said even to be less at present than our own.

\* Chenier states that previous to the revolution the French employed 200 vessels between France and Turkey, and 200 more in freighting for the Turks, forming a nursery for 8000 sailors, and supporting 25,000 families.

Her exports to Smyrna alone amount only to \$150,000, and last year she imported from that place only \$900,000. This falling off is attributed by all intelligent merchants to her severe quarantine, which of course must also operate to the prejudice of her carrying-trade. The Greeks, and the Russian vessels manned by Greeks, will of course be formidable rivals; but however active they may be, it is generally acknowledged that they are but indifferent sailors, and their voyages are consequently much protracted.

The English have not yet engaged in this trade to any great extent, their vessels being chiefly employed in the transportation of their own manufactures. For a long time all their intercourse with the Levant was conducted under the auspices of the Levant Company. This company was established about 300 years ago, and was the prototype of the now gigantic East India monopoly. It appointed and paid its own ambassadors, consuls, and chaplains, possessed twenty-five or thirty armed ships, and built palaces, hospitals, &c. all over the Mediterranean. It has frequently been cited as an honourable specimen of English integrity and fair dealing: but, according to Hobhouse, every English agent, whether minister, consul, or drogoman, except at Constantinople and Smyrna, was either a Greek or Jew; and this, too, in the very teeth of one of its very *liberal* regulations, by which Jews were positively prohibited from being employed. There is one fact which is highly creditable to the company, and is, I believe, without a parallel in the history of moneyed monopolies. In 1825, the English government called upon them to relinquish their charter. They complied with this requisition; and, astonishing to relate, after all their disbursements and enormous expenses were paid, they were still enabled to offer to the govern-

Scrofani states that at one time France had a capital of \$6,000,000 employed in this way, giving a profit of fifty per cent.

ment a sum amounting to \$300,000.\* The Austrians are and will continue to be our most active rivals. An American is surprised upon entering the Mediterranean to find that a flag unknown to him is flying at the masthead of almost every third vessel he may happen to fall in with. He is told it is the Austrian flag; and the key to the wonder is the extent of her Italian possessions. Under her flag the ancient enterprise of Venice has received new life, and her canvass whitens every sea. The carrying-trade is chiefly in their hands, and is considered as exceedingly profitable. They have been on thorns ever since our treaty has been in agitation, as they seemed to anticipate that American vessels would monopolize the whole business. Although the cost of navigating an Austrian vessel is less than one of our own, yet this would, we apprehend, be more than counterbalanced by our superior sailing and quicker despatch. The Austrian vessels are usually polacre brigs of from 150 to 400 tons. Desirous of informing

\* This curious phenomenon was for a long time a matter of astonishment, until a perusal of the by-laws and regulations of this paragon of monopolies unravelled the mystery. It was not a partnership for the purpose of trade, but an association for the regulation of commerce. Their sole business was to collect duties upon every article of commerce passing between England and Turkey. Those who were not members paid a duty of twenty per cent. to the company. By another law no member could consign his goods to any one but a member residing in Turkey or Egypt, unless he paid a duty of twenty per cent. The chief advantage seems to have been that of mutual protection against the avanias, or arbitrary exactions of the Turkish local authorities. The injured party in those days, if declared innocent by the company, was reimbursed to the full extent of his losses. This was a laudable association, and in fact was a species of mutual assurance company for specific purposes. It cannot be considered as a national establishment, for an Englishman might be oppressed and ruined if he did not happen to belong to this company. By another regulation, the consuls were allowed to protect strangers and their property, "*provided* that it can be done without prejudice to English interests; and provided, moreover, that they pay all the company's dues." Until its dissolution, American property was under the protection of this company, at an expense of from four to five thousand dollars annually.

myself personally of the advantages which they are supposed to possess over our own ships, I visited one which had recently been built at Trieste, and said to be the finest that had ever been launched from that port. She was of the burthen of 400 tons, had cost when complete \$20,000, and was navigated by eighteen men. In the summer months she only requires sixteen men. Their wages vary from \$8 to \$10 per month, and her annual insurance is \$1000. The men are furnished with excellent provisions, and the captain informed me that he could get no sailors, unless he furnished them with as good food as he required for himself. This vessel makes two voyages annually between Odessa and Trieste, which is considered about the average, although three and even four have been made; but this is acknowledged to be of very rare occurrence. Much of the length of these voyages must depend on the facilities afforded for making up a cargo, but we have been informed by competent authority, that even allowing for the unavoidable delays at the Dardanelles and Bosphorus, forty days would be an ample allowance for the passage between Trieste and Odessa. This would give four complete voyages, but as the Austrians commonly make but two, each trip must consume more than ninety days. Our own vessels, we are inclined to believe, taking the whole year round, would make a complete voyage every two months, provided there was no unusual detention on account of the cargo. From these facts our ship-owners may judge for themselves of the rivalry to be anticipated from Austrian vessels.

The commerce of the Black Sea is perhaps the most ancient in the world. Polybius, writing nearly 2000 years ago, described the exports as consisting of hides, honey, slaves, wax, and salt-fish: corn was alternately exported and imported. Its present extent and value may be readily conceived, when we take into consideration the amount of the products raised in Poland, Moldavia, Wallachia, and

the southern parts of Russia. Odessa, which in 1796 was founded upon the site of a Tatar village, in 1803 had a population of 8000, and eight years afterward numbered 25,000 souls. Its chief exports are grain, tallow, cordage, iron, leather, and salt provisions. Much of the wheat is derived from Podolia, Volhynia, and Kerson, but some of it traverses the Dneiper 1800 versts before it reaches Odessa. The wheat is distinguished into two kinds, the soft and hard, the latter of which is principally used in the fabrication of macaroni and vermicelli. The usual price of wheat is about seventy cents per bushel, and it may give some idea of the value of this article when we learn that 58,000,000 of bushels were exported from Odessa alone during the year ending September, 1830. It is a curious fact that Spain requires annually 3,000,000 bushels from this source, although she exports annually a large amount to Cuba and Porto Rico. The price of Indian corn is about fifty cents per bushel. The grain market is subject to considerable fluctuations from unfavourable seasons, long droughts, and more than all, from the depredations of mice, which, in some seasons have nearly cut off the crops. Wheat flour usually sells at \$1 4¼ the bushel of seventy pounds. Of tallow 7000 tons are annually exported. The ordinary freight between Odessa and Constantinople is about \$100 for a vessel of 200 tons. The usual charge for wheat is twelve and a half cents per bushel; freights to England are \$15 50 per ton at present.

The first American vessel that ever penetrated the Black Sea was the brig Calumet of Boston, in 1810; and since our treaty has been concluded, only two others have ventured to undertake this voyage; of these, the brig Smyrna was, we believe, the first.

In concluding this brief, and, as we are sensible, imperfect account of the commerce with Turkey, and the means of extending our trade in this direction, we may mention that there are three insurance companies in Constantinople.

The capitals are small, in no instance exceeding \$100,000. The dividends, as we were informed by one of the stockholders, have been fifty per cent. per annum on the amount actually paid in, or, in other words, equivalent to five per cent. on the nominal capital. They are exclusively owned and managed by Franks. No one as yet has been found hardy enough to propose the formation of a company to insure against fire in Constantinople.

It is asserted that Russia would view with much jealousy any participation in the commerce of the Black Sea, and that if she held Constantinople, all nations would be excluded. This, however, would be at variance with the general policy of Russia, and certainly opposed to the helping hand which she gave us in arranging our treaty. Indeed, we have been informed that one of the most difficult points to arrange in our treaty, was that clause which enabled us to navigate the Euxine. It was only by a hint of appealing to Russia, that the negotiation was brought to a successful close. It is true that about two years ago an English frigate sailed into the Black Sea, and touched at Sebastapol, Odessa, Varna, and Bourgas. The jealousy of the Russian authorities, under quarantine prettexts, did not allow her to land, and after a cruise of eighteen days she was compelled to return. This, however, it will be recollected, was an armed ship of a rival nation, on a voyage of discovery.

It may be alleged that ship-owners would be unwilling to permit their vessels to be engaged for any length of time in a business over which they could have no control, and where so much must necessarily depend upon the intelligence and good faith of the captain. This, however, applies with equal force to many other distant and equally complicated voyages in which our merchants are actually engaged. We hazard little in saying that as soon as this business is properly understood, our vessels will obtain a full share of this profitable trade. From various sources

we are enabled to state, that this commerce of the Black Sea and the Mediterranean gave employment during the year past to 3,500 vessels, belonging to the following flags, and we have arranged them in the order of their numerical strength : Russian, Austrian, Sardinian, Ionian, English, French, American, Tuscan, Neapolitan, and Dutch. Greek vessels usually sail under the Russian, French, English, Sardinian, or Ionian flags. No mention is made of Danish or Swedish vessels ; and, stranger still, not a vestige is seen of those once proud flags which first fluttered in the gales off Cape Horn, or gently waved to the breezes of the Indian Ocean.

In the Appendix, the reader will find a paper drawn up by the American agent at Salonica, which is a very instructive document, and to the commercial man full of interest.

## CHAPTER XXI.

Yallo Kiosk — Zerpanay—Coins—Debt—Crown Revenue—Resources—  
Revolt of Satalia—Extortions of Pacha—Haratch, or Capitation-tax—  
Retrenchment.

WE crossed over the Golden Horn a few days since to visit some of the lions of Stamboul. We landed just above Scraglic Point, near a green building resembling a large tent, and which is known under the name of the Yallo Kiosk. The sides of this building are of painted canvass, which is rolled up during the feast of Bairam, when the sultan takes his stand here to enjoy the festivities of the season. The open space around it is the scene of various gymnastic exercises and sports among the lower orders, for the entertainment of the sultan and court. A short distance from this we attempted to pass the outer gate of the seraglio, leading to the zerpanay, or royal mint; but not being possessed of the requisite permission, we were civilly requested to make a retrograde movement. Instead then of attempting to describe what we did not see, a short notice of the operations of the mint must be taken in its stead.

The coins of the Turkish empire are of copper, silver, and gold. The purse is an imaginary standard of value of 500 piastres, equivalent at present to 25 dollars. The only copper coins now in use are *paras*, forty of which make a piastre, or, as the Turks call them, groosh. The para is so small and thin as to be exceedingly troublesome, getting in under the nails, in the handle of your penknife, among papers, &c. At the present moment 800 paras equal a dollar; and it was long before we could ascertain that for one of them we could purchase a single article: one para.



however, will purchase a pipefull of tobacco, a glass of water, or of sherbet, a few grapes, or even a small loaf of bread. Let no one, therefore, despise this apparently insignificant coin, although eight of them only equal an American cent. The *asper*, which was a coin of still smaller value (three equalling a para), has now totally disappeared. The silver coins are piastres, with their subdivisions into halves and quarters. There are also  $2\frac{1}{2}$ , 5, and 10 piastre pieces of silver. Of gold coins, they have now pieces of three piastres, termed rubiehs, and others of the value of 10 and 20 piastres. All these coins bear the attributes of the sultan, and the year of his reign; the workmanship is very indifferent, but quite good enough for the material of which all the Turkish coins are composed.

The system of issuing adulterated coin has been pursued of late years to a prodigious extent. The gold and silver is usually purchased at Vienna; although the former is said to be obtained from the mines of Ergahni and Guayban, in the pachalik of Diarbekir, and from Goomosh Khannay, near Trebisond. The mines of Kooray, in the pachalik of Trebisond, furnish a considerable quantity of copper. I am not aware that there is any silver mine in the country. Whenever a supply is wanted for ordinary purposes, such as paying off the troops, the mint is put in operation, and the requisite quantity is turned out at a short notice. This may be a good scheme of finance; but although sanctioned by the practice of Austria and Russia, it seems hardly reconcilable with ordinary notions of honesty.

The business of the mint is conducted by an Armenian, who, by the simplicity of his life and the uprightness of his conduct, has acquired the confidence of the government. The fate of his predecessor Tinghir Oglou was a melancholy one, and might serve as a warning to all future officers of the mint. He was sent for one morning to the Porte, and his head taken off without asking him a single question. As this case has frequently been cited

as an instance of the horrid cruelty and barbarity of the Turkish government, we took some pains to learn the particulars. It appears that the style in which he lived, and his immense expenditures, induced the government to suspect that his revenues were improperly derived from the mint. Upon being more closely watched, it was discovered that whenever a given quantity of gold was placed in his hands he doubled the alloy, and, of course, coined as much for himself as for the sultan. His death was the immediate consequence of this discovery.

Of the operations of banking the Turks are profoundly ignorant; they have no public stock, and, I need hardly add, no national debt. We are in the habit of regarding our own small national incumbrance with much complacency, as unparalleled in the history of nations; but we are excelled in this particular by the Turks, who not only have no debt whatever, but, as far as we could ascertain, never have had a national debt at any period of their history. Nor, indeed, do they seem at all anxious to learn any of those important truths in political economy by which posterity are made to feel in a tangible pecuniary shape the follies and blunders of their predecessors. The ordinary revenue is about \$14,000,000, and is more than sufficient for the ordinary expenses of government, which rarely exceed two millions. Whenever there happens to be an extra demand for unforeseen emergencies, the sum is obtained by levying a general contribution upon the pachas and other great officers of the government.

An attempt was recently made to endoctrinate the Turks with some of the modern notions of stocks and public securities, but without success. By the terms of the treaty of Adrianople, the Turkish government were compelled to pay large sums to Russia, and it was generally supposed that their previous heavy war-expenses would prevent them from paying it at the stipulated time. The liberal and disinterested race of money-brokers were immediately on

the alert, and an agent of Rothschild appeared at Constantinople in the spring of 1830, with an offer to loan the government any amount of money which they might require. The council deliberated upon the proposal, and finally declined it. The terms of this proposed loan were never made public; but it is said that the entire monopoly of the opium and silk-trade was only one of the items required under the head of collateral security. Notwithstanding this refusal to accept the loan, the various instalments of the Russian contribution were punctually and promptly paid as they became due.

One of the most cogent arguments used by the Turks against incurring this debt was, that the stock would be owned by foreigners, who would, of course, exercise an undue influence over the government. This subject appears to have been regarded in the same light by some of our own statesmen in the discussions connected with our national bank. To form a correct estimate of the dangers to be apprehended from foreign ownership we should undoubtedly take into consideration the character of the people, and the circumstances and political condition of the country to which it is to be applied.

Aside from this public revenue, or *miri*, the sultan has a fund of his own, which is termed *ilsh hanay*. It is impossible to form any correct estimate of the amount of this fund, which is considered sacred, and transmitted unimpaired from one sultan to another; each one endeavouring to exceed, if possible, the additions made by his predecessor. It is increased by royal revenues derived from his domains, from presents, fines, and forfeitures. We could obtain no positive information respecting it, and are rather disposed to class it with those marvellous inventions which lead the rabble to attribute the possession of unbounded wealth to their royal masters. The tale is improbable on other accounts. Exigencies have occurred in the history of this country when a fund like this must certainly have

been wanted ; and it would argue great stupidity on the part of the Turks not to have so applied it ; to say nothing of the absurdity of retaining such an amount of idle capital, and thereby exciting the cupidity of their hostile neighbours.

Notwithstanding this absence of a national burthen and the undoubted resources of the country, its finances are far from being in a flourishing condition. This is justly attributed to the imperfect and often iniquitous manner in which the revenues are collected, and to the frequent rebellions of large districts against the government ; by which, not only the revenues of these districts are lost, but large sums are expended in reducing them to submission. The tenth of all produce is granted by the Koran to the sultan : the pacha of each district is responsible for the collection, and, like the proconsuls of ancient Rome, he farms it out to various inferior officers. Formerly every village had its governor, whose duty it was to collect the tithes and maintain the police ; and a judge to determine civil causes. The governor, however, soon began by deciding upon police cases, and then upon all others, whatever might be their nature. Those who had been oppressed in the collection of taxes had formerly a shadow of redress by appealing to the judge ; but the same individual is now the collector and the judge. In the larger towns there was formerly a municipal body, of which the chief was chosen annually like our mayors,—thus presenting the singular spectacle of a republican institution in the heart of a despotic government. It is not meant, however, to convey the idea that this choice was made by formal vote, or that they had hand-bills, tickets, inspectors, and all the apparatus of a democratic poll. Public opinion designated beforehand the most worthy, who accordingly took possession of an office which was neither to be “sought nor declined.” Every vestige of these institutions has disappeared, and the pacha, mus-selim, or aga, according to the extent of his jurisdiction, appoints and dismisses all officers at his pleasure. The

pacha pays a certain sum to the government for his office, and in case of his death, all his property, like that of every other officer of the crown, reverts to the sultan. An anecdote is related by a modern traveller,\* which demonstrates the miserable policy of this government in the collection of its revenue. In 1813 the Bey of Satalia having died, a requisition was made for his property. His son replied, that it consisted of 800 purses, at that time equivalent to \$40,000, which he was ready to give up immediately. Whether this statement was true or false, it did not satisfy the sultan; and an expedition was sent against Satalia under the captain pacha. Satalia is a little insignificant place, without any cannon; but nevertheless it defended itself with so much vigour that it required an army of 60,000 men, and the whole Turkish fleet of 34 vessels, among which were nine ships of the line, for the space of two years, before it was finally reduced. "Despotism," as the author from whom I borrow this anecdote observes, "is a bad calculator." The whole of the revenue of this district was unpaid for two years; the expenses of the siege were enormous; and the islands of Cyprus and Rhodes, and all the ports near Satalia, were ruined by the merciless exactions for the support of the fleet and army; and after all, the only satisfaction which the government obtained was the head of the gallant young bey; for not a vestige of the 800 purses could be found, and all the money within the city was buried under its ruins.

The revenue collectors are paid exceedingly small salaries, which they contrive to enlarge by the rankest extortion. Every one through whose hands the revenue passes appropriates a portion for his own use, and in this way enormous wealth is frequently amassed by the officers. It is true, that at their death this money reverts to the government; but in the mean time the people are horribly

\* Turner.

oppressed. To illustrate the oppressive operation of this mode of collecting the revenue, we will suppose that a certain pachalik, or district, is rated on the government books as yielding \$60,000 annually; the pacha must live in a certain style, must reimburse himself for what the office has cost him, and amass as much as he can besides. We will suppose that he requires \$20,000,—he therefore commences by the declaration that \$80,000 will be required. The inferior officers act upon the same plan, and enlarge it still more to suit their wants, until the original sum is swelled up to \$150,000 and even \$200,000. Other extortions of the pachas are practised, like the following;—the taxes are usually paid in kind, and after it is all secured, the pacha issues a decree that no produce shall be sold except to himself: of course, he gets it at his own price, for who would dare to chaffer with a pacha. As he is the only dealer in the market, he of course regulates it, and in this way makes his own profits. One pacha has been known to buy up all the wheat in the district at 75 cents, and to sell it out again at a profit of one hundred per cent. The Governor of Beyroot, only two years ago, purchased up all the soap at his own price, and then compelled the inhabitants, whether they required it or not, to buy it from him again at an enormous advance. This system goes on until the people, reduced to abject misery, or maddened by extortion, rise up against their oppressors, and in their fury hew them to pieces.

The frequent insurrections in Asia Minor, which are always represented as political disturbances, are, in fact, not directed so much against the government as against their local oppressors. The best evidence of this is, that upon the banishment, recal, or death of an obnoxious pacha, and the appointment of a successor in his stead, the public tranquillity is immediately restored. In these disturbances, the women (bless their hearts) always take the lead, and boldly beard the lion in his den. Perhaps the very first notice which the governor, or pacha, receives is a sere-

nade under his windows by female performers, in which his cruelty and extortion are proclaimed in alto, with occasional curses obligato. What is the poor man to do? Independent of the general respect with which women are treated in Turkey, even if he should be so ferocious as to order his soldiers to fire upon them, he might, as they all dress alike, kill his own wife, sister, or mother, nay, a single volley might depopulate his harem. If the pacha happens to be a wise and prudent man, he relaxes in his extortions, and public tranquillity is restored; but if he obstinately persists in his career of oppression, the men, like dutiful husbands, take up the matter, and, after the effusion of more or less blood, the pacha is either beheaded or disgraced. It is impossible to avoid being struck with the profound respect which the Turks universally pay to the female sex. During the bloody reign of the Janizaries, the citizens of Constantinople were peaceable witnesses of their proceedings until they began to abuse and maltreat the women of a harem belonging to some obnoxious individual. Then, indeed, their constitutional apathy deserted them, and a long and bloody contest ensued between the citizens and the Janizaries.

Independent of the above-mentioned sources of revenue, the government derives no inconsiderable sum from the heratch, or capitation-tax, which is levied upon all its rayahs, or subjects, not mussulmans. This includes Armenians, Greeks, Jews, and, if we are not misinformed, Bulgarians. They pay an annual sum, varying from one to three dollars per head. If, as Hassel intimates, there are six millions of rayahs in European Turkey alone, the revenue from this source must be very great. Independent of this tax, which is said to be one of protection, the rayahs, on account of their being exempted from the operation of the Turkish law with regard to tithes, pay a sort of income-tax, which is very onerous, and must, from its nature, be very arbitrary. It amounts to nearly ten per cent. upon

their earnings, or what is supposed to be, the amount of their earnings, in trade or commerce. In one of the pachaliks I was informed, by a Jew, that his nation alone, in a single town, paid 100,000 piastres annually for this tax, besides other exactions dependent upon the whim and caprice of the local authorities. For instance, upon the arrival of a new merigee, or governor, his nation were admitted to the high honour of feasting and entertaining, for three days, his excellency, and this usually cost them about 25,000 piastres. The Greeks and Armenians take their turn in entertaining and paying, in the same manner. I was told, by a person who had the best right to be informed on the subject, that in one of the provincial towns permission had been granted by the governor to a rayah to dock out and build upon the water, exacting, of course, a valuable consideration for this permission. Shortly after the captain pacha, or his agent, entered the port, and inquired by what authority encroachments were made on his domain,—for he is understood to exercise all dominion and power over every spot washed by the sea,—when the unfortunate rayah, to save his property, was again compelled to pay a handsome fee to the captain pacha. These are not solitary cases of oppression exercised over the rayahs, and it is really marvellous that they can exist under it ; but exist they do, and appear to be quite as prosperous as their torpid Turkish masters. I have frequently asked these Greeks, Armenians, and Jews why they would persist in remaining in a country where the fruits of their industry were so severely, and often capriciously, taxed. The usual answer was, that they would be compelled to pay taxes anywhere, and that, after all, there was no such country on the face of the globe as their own. They are, it seems, willing slaves, and it is only when smarting under the recent infliction of a tax that they think of murmuring against their masters.

It was stated that the government have laboured zealously, for the last few years, to lighten the burdens upon



the *rayahs*, and to correct the many errors which arise from the unjust and impolitic mode of collecting the revenue. This measure is, of course, vehemently opposed by the pachas and other high officers, and it requires the most vigorous and decided measures to carry it into execution. Reform, indeed, seems to be the order of the day, and a recent decree of the sultan, aimed at the high officers of his court, has given very general satisfaction. One of the weak points of the oriental character is a fondness for show and parade, for brilliant dresses and a numerous retinue. This, of course, entails much expense, which, when the individual is invested with office, must be provided for by official exactions. The sultan has directed the *grandees* of his court to dismiss the "lazy vermin of their hall," and to retrench the number of their *chohadars*, or running footmen. These are now, by an imperial decree, limited to four, and so powerful has been the impression produced, that I have seen the highest dignitaries of the empire passing through the streets on horseback attended only by a single footman. The sultan himself sets an example of becoming simplicity, and, except upon state occasions, is scarcely to be distinguished from his attendants. It is said that, like Haroun el Raschid, he often perambulates the streets incognito; but the disguise must be very complete that would conceal his remarkable features.

## CHAPTER XXII.

**Khans—Cashmere Shawls—Baysceeten—Burnt Column—Egyptian Obelisk—Brazen Tripod—Column of Porphyrogenitus—Mosque of Achmet—Toorbay of Abdulhamid—Anecdote—Humanity to the Brute Creation.**

THE khans in Constantinople form a conspicuous feature in this oriental capital. These massy buildings originated in the benevolence of wealthy individuals, who raised them for the accommodation of travelling merchants. The difficulty of procuring lodgings, or a suitable place to display and vend their wares, formerly rendered such buildings peculiarly necessary, and a trifling bakshish, or present, to the porter was all the compensation required. In the course of events, trade was managed in a different manner, and these khans became individual or corporate property. Merchants now rent apartments in them, and many become permanent residents. I stepped into one of them this morning to execute a commission with which I had been charged upon leaving home. It is a noble building of stone, and fireproof, 300 feet long, and 100 broad, built round a court, three stories in height, with open galleries in the interior. There are said to be no less than 180 of these khans in the city of various sizes.

The ground-floor of the khan which we entered was occupied by a row of coffee-shops. In the second floor was a rich display of jewelry, while the third contained an endless variety of Cashmere shawls. The demand for these articles was formerly greater among the Turks than at present; for no one of any consideration could be seen in public without an expensive turban of Cashmere, and another to be used as a girdle. Unfortunately for the lovers of the picturesque, these expensive fooleries are now

generally laid aside by good society, and of course their value is much diminished. We were shown superb shawls at the price of \$300, which five years ago would have readily sold for \$800 or \$1000. The most valuable, perhaps we should say the most costly, of these shawls are twelve feet by four feet wide, and of so fine a texture as to pass through the compass of a finger-ring. They are constantly kept in screw presses, which preserves their gloss, and gives them a new and fresh appearance. This khan is on ground so uneven that we passed out of its third story immediately into the street.

Not far from this is a *baysesteen*, which term originally designated a cloth market, but the building is now devoted to other purposes. It seems to be occupied chiefly by druggists, and differs from other bazars only in being of a more lofty and solid construction. These, together with the bazars, are under the guard of *kayhaiyas*, or officers appointed by government, and are considered, particularly the *baysesteen*, to be places of such safe deposite, that the Turks are in the habit of entrusting there their most valuable effects. The property of widows and orphans is likewise frequently placed there for safe keeping.

Our course next led us past an unsightly monument, called, very appropriately, the Burnt Column.\* It is said to have been originally 120 feet high, and was surmounted by a statue of the Trojan Apollo, which represented the Emperor Constantine himself. The Greeks have a tradition that Constantine deposited under its base a nail of the true cross, and a bit of bread which formerly belonged to one of the five miraculous barley loaves; hence it was formerly considered as a sacred spot, and every one who rode past, not even excepting the emperor himself, alighted to pay it homage. The base is of white marble, eighteen feet high, and apparently circular; but

\* Or, in Turkish, *Daykilitash*, the Burnt Stone.

this we could not determine, as it has been walled up ever since the great fire of 1779 in this neighbourhood. The column itself is composed of solid blocks of red porphyry or jasper, each about ten feet high, and twelve feet in diameter, and, when perfect, must have been one of the most imposing structures of its kind in the world. It is now a ruined, tottering mass, kept together by several iron bands, and blackened and defaced by frequent conflagrations. On the summit is a marble capital, carved above, with an inscription which, upon the authority of Wheeler, is said to purport that it was repaired by one of the Comneni. This worthy traveller must have been endowed with extraordinary powers of vision, for none of us could decipher a single letter of the inscription from any spot in its vicinity. Having satisfied our curiosity by examining this remarkable monument, which has withstood repeated conflagrations, and the corroding influence of fifteen centuries, we hastened to the chief object of our visit.

The vivid description of the Hippodrome in the pages of Gibbon had left such an impression, that, when my companion exclaimed "This is the Atmeidan," I could scarcely credit the evidence of my senses; and yet here was the Egyptian obelisk, and its miserable rival the column of Porphyrogenitus, and between them the remnant of the brazen tripod from which were once delivered the oracles of Delphi. There could be no mistake, for these were the monuments which established its identity. We were in a small unpaved and sandy area, 350 paces long, and nearly 100 paces broad, and surrounded by high buildings, which had the effect of making its actual dimensions appear still less. Under the Greek emperors it was termed the Hippodrome, and was then much larger, for the burnt column was contained within its precincts. Careless travellers have given it various names, such as Ocmeidan, or the place of arrows, and Etmeidan, or the place of meat; but its true appellation is *Atmeidan*, or place for horses, a translation of

its Grecian name.\* On its south side it is bounded by the peristyle, or screen of Achmet Djammissi, or the magnificent mosque of Achmet, and on the opposite side by large buildings, of which the most conspicuous are the menagerie and the palace of Ibrahim Pacha, now the head-quarters of the cavalry staff. Towards the eastern extremity of the Atmeidan is the Egyptian obelisk, said to have been brought from Rome by Constantine when he laid the foundation of the Eastern Empire. This superb monolith is said to be sixty feet high, and, at its base, is twelve feet in diameter; it is of the red Egyptian granite, and the carved hieroglyphs look as fresh and as sharp as if they were cut but yesterday. The specific gravity of this granite is 2.65, and hence its approximative weight must be 100 tons. One is naturally led to inquire how such an enormous mass could have been transported in the first place to Rome, and subsequently to Constantinople. The small size of the vessels of that era, and the imperfect acquaintance of the ancients with navigation, would seem to preclude the idea of its having been transported in a single vessel, and the union of two or more vessels appears scarcely more probable. Charnock, in his *History of Naval Architecture*, seems, however, to lean towards the idea of a large vessel having been employed for this purpose. He mentions that Constantine had caused an immense obelisk, 115 feet high, and weighing 1500 tons, to be floated down the hill from Heliopolis to Alexandria, intending to adorn with it his new seat of empire. Death, however, frustrated his intentions, and his son caused it to be transported to Rome. "It is to be regretted," adds Charnock, "that no particulars have been given of this vessel, which in size must have exceeded any ship of the line now in existence." We might add, that if such a vessel had been constructed,

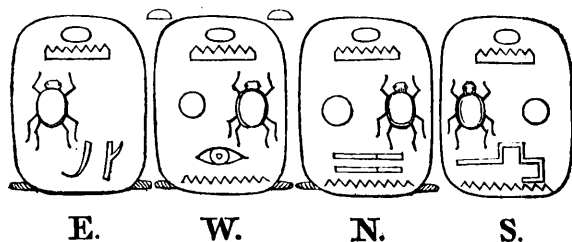
\* The *Ocmeidan* is on the other side of the Golden Horn behind Tataavla, and is still used for the exercises of the bow. The *Etmeidan* is in the centre of the capital, where the Janizaries formerly received their rations.

an account of such an Herculean task would undoubtedly have been transmitted to posterity. The immense rafts of timber from the Black Sea floating down the Bosphorus, under the guidance of several ships, and capable of sustaining thousands of tons, suggested the idea that a similar contrivance had been adopted in the transportation of this and other obelisks.

The supposed labour of quarrying and preparing these gigantic monuments has been much overrated. The mechanical skill required was inconsiderable, and the manner of operating, in all probability, has for ages been the same. In our own day we have an opportunity of ascertaining the amount of labour expended upon a similar monument in Russia. The monolith erected in honour of the Emperor Alexander is twelve feet in diameter, and eighty-four feet high. This required the labour of six hundred men for two years.

In the work of Champollion it is remarked, that a translation of an Egyptian obelisk by Hermapion has been handed down to us in the text of Ammius Marcellinus, which was supposed to relate to some obelisk at Rome.\* This text has been applied in several ingenious ways to the obelisks at Rome, by various persons who have attempted from it to form a system of Egyptian writing. Champollion was the first to prove that this translation could not apply to any obelisk now in Rome. With a view of ascertaining whether this might not be the very obelisk alluded to by Hermapion, I copied the various cartouches on its sides, in order to compare them with the hieroglyphics of Champollion. The cartouche on the south side agrees nearly with the royal title of the first king of the twenty-second dynasty of the Pharaohs. There is also the royal title of Sesostris, the first king of the nineteenth dynasty of the

\* These obelisks were placed near the portals of the ancient Egyptian temples. Their inscriptions mention by what kings they had been constructed, and sometimes a detail of the execution of the obelisks themselves.



Cartouches on the Obelisk of the Atmeidan.

Pharaohs, who flourished as a conqueror 1500 years B.C. This latter title agrees with the translation of Hermapion. It is reasonable, then, to infer that this obelisk may have been erected by Sesonchis in honour of Sesostris. This Sesonchis was a warlike prince, and high-priest of the sun, and his name has come down to us under various aliases. He has been called Sesak, Sheschack, Shischak, Shoushac, and Shishak, under which last name he is mentioned in the Holy Scriptures : 1 Kings xiv. 25 ; 2 Chron. xii. 3. With an army composed of 1200 chariots, 60,000 horse, and an innumerable infantry of Lybians (Lubbims), Troglodytes (Sukküms), and Ethiopians, he sacked Jerusalem, then ruled by Rehoboam, a son of Solomon. As a contemporary with Rehoboam, Sesonchis flourished 1000 years before the Christian era, and therefore this obelisk is more than 2800 years old. An additional evidence of its antiquity, if one can be desired, is, that it contains in the cartouche on the eastern side two signs which I do not find alluded to by Champollion.

The obelisk rests upon four pieces of bronze, which, in their turn, rest upon an enormous block of marble, whose clumsily-sculptured sides contrast strangely with the severe simplicity of the shaft which it supports. The sculptures represent the various games which were formerly exhibited on this spot ; and the Greek and Latin inscriptions purport

that this huge monolith was raised from the ground and placed in its present position, in the space of thirty-two days, by Proclus, prefect of the Pretorium, by command of the mighty and invincible Theodosius. Beneath this pedestal, and almost buried in the earth, it is attempted to be explained, by several rude drawings, how this obelisk was elevated, but it is far from being clear and satisfactory; and it may be doubted whether such drawings, even if accompanied by a specification, would be received at our patent-office. Lady Montagu, who has frequently been our delightful cicerone through Stamboul, first called our attention to these sculptures, and it was not until after repeated visits to this place that we were enabled to detect them. The mention of this lady's name leads me to allude to her conjecture with regard to the hieroglyphics on the Egyptian obelisks. She says that they were most probably learned puns, and the discoveries of Champollion show that her ladyship was not wide of the mark. The marble pedestal, when compared with the obelisk which it supports, is but an affair of yesterday, for it is scarcely more than 1500 years of age.

At a short distance from the obelisk stands the twisted brazen column, which in the neighbourhood of gigantic monuments appears to be comparatively insignificant; and yet its history teems with interest. It is a hollow casting of bronze, now twelve feet high. It represents three twisted columns, and is for its age and as a specimen of the arts the most authentic monument of antiquity in existence. There is some doubt expressed by travellers whether its original position has not been reversed, but its gradual taper upwards as it now stands, disproves this idea. It formerly terminated at the top in three serpents' heads, and Gibbon relates that when the victorious Mohammed entered the city, either flushed with the excitement of victory, or desirous of exhibiting his personal strength, he struck off one of the serpent's heads at a single blow.



This brazen column once belonged to the Persians, who assigned to it the highest antiquity. It was captured from them, with many other trophies, at the battle of Plataea, and formed for centuries the celebrated tripod from whence the priestess delivered her oracles at Delphi. Some have supposed it to be one of the brazen serpents alluded to in Exodus, but without going so far back it may be reasonably supposed to have been at least 500 years in the possession of the Persians. Upon this hypothesis, we are now looking upon a specimen of human art which has lasted for nearly thirty centuries.\*

At the farther extremity of the Hippodrome is an obelisk of coarse limestone, now in a very dilapidated condition. It was erected by Constantine Porphyrogenitus, and probably intended as a rival of its Egyptian neighbour; if so, it has been a miserable failure, and from present appearances it must soon tumble to pieces. It was formerly covered with bronze plates, similar to the column in the Place Vendome at Paris. These, however, have long since disappeared, and a heap of rubbish around the base nearly conceals a long Latin inscription, which was intended to confer immortality upon its founder.

Near this column are two trees which possess a modern historic interest. Mustapha, surnamed the Bairactar or standard-bearer, a man of singular daring, had stormed the seraglio in 1807, deposed the usurper, and placed the present sultan on the throne. He was made grand vizier, and attempted to suppress the influence and insolence of the Janizaries. In the bloody contest which ensued he was overpowered, and retreated to a powder magazine, where

\* In the church of St. Ambrogio at Milan is a similar column, which is contended by the local historians to be the identical serpent of Moses; but, as Forsyth observes, the sole authority is a bishop, who travelled in the blackest age of legend, and as the prelate contradicts Scripture itself, we may fairly question whether he really brought the column from Constantinople.

he blew himself and his colleagues into the air. After the massacre, his body was recognised, and the Janizaries, in their blind rage, suspended by the feet, with the head downwards, between these two trees, the disfigured and mutilated corpse of the brave and faithful Bairactar.

It has already been mentioned that one of the sides of the Hippodrome is bounded by the peristyle of the royal mosque of Achmed. This peristyle forms a vaulted gallery, the arcades of which are supported by granite and porphyritic columns of large dimensions. In the centre of the court are fountains, for the ablutions which precede every act of worship among the Mohammedans. We did not attempt to enter, but through the windows we were enabled to perceive a vast matted hall, and from the ceiling depended thousands of little coloured glass lamps and ostriches' eggs to within seven or eight feet of the floor. With the general form of the mosques, the Turks have also borrowed from the Greeks these puerile decorations, which greatly impair the otherwise splendid interior. These childish ornaments may be seen in the oldest Greek churches of Asia at the present day. When the mosques are open upon public occasions for evening prayers, the glare from these myriads of lamps is said to be almost overpowering, and to exhibit the whole of the interior in its most imposing form.

Near this mosque is the toorbay, or mausoleum, of its illustrious founder. There are several of these distributed over various parts of the city, and one which belongs to the present reigning family merits a particular description. It is a marble edifice, built in the oriental style, with gilded gratings across the windows. In the interior are a number of coffins, surmounted by turbans and covered by Cashmere shawls, which are said to be of immense value. From the ceiling were suspended costly silver and gold lamps, which are kept continually burning, while a lad on his knees was whining through his nose a dismal canticle, analogous probably to the service in other countries for the repose of the

dead. Unlike most monuments of royal vanity or ostentation, these mausolea are of some utility to the living, for to each of them is attached a public fountain for the benefit of the poor.

In approaching Constantinople from the Sea of Marmora, the Mosque of Achmed, with its six long and slender minarets piercing the skies, is one of the first objects which designates the imperial city. It is said that in the court of this mosque a number of cats are supported by a bequest of one of the sultans. This, however, like many other travellers' stories, although frequently repeated, is entirely destitute of foundation. The story, nevertheless, is too good to be lost, and reminds us of another which is equally well attested. In a large building devoted to religious purposes, we were once shown two plump, well-fed crows, upon whose health depended, according to our reverend guide, the welfare and safety of the city. He related, with the most serious and sincere air in the world, a tremendous cock-and-bull story, too tedious and too stupid to be repeated, how closely the safety of the city was associated with the health of these two crows. It was, in fact, the last remnant of the ancient augury derived from birds. The reader will naturally feel much compassion for the gross ignorance and superstition of the Turks,—but the anecdote belongs to another country. It occurred in a passably enlightened community of Christian Europe, namely, among the Portuguese, and in the great church of San Domingo in Lisbon. We saw the crows, heard the story from the lips of the priest, and for aught we know to the contrary, they are still the tutelary deities of the metropolis of Portugal.

It is probable, however, that the story of the cat hospital originated in the well-known humanity exercised by the Turks towards all the brute creation. We have already alluded to the myriads of sea-gulls and other aquatic birds which cover the Bosphorus, so tame and fearless that they

will scarcely move out of the way of an oar. Even the most prejudiced Frank will admit, while he scoffs at this ultra humane feeling, that the storks are capable of distinguishing the Turk from the Greek or Jew; for they unhesitatingly build their nests upon the houses of the former, while they cautiously avoid approaching the dwellings of the latter.

But we have wandered from the Hippodrome. Under the Greek emperors it was devoted to athletic sports and exercises; under the French monarchy, to jousts, and tilts, and tournaments; and in the hands of the Turks to the exercise of the short spear or jeered. Alas for the progress of reform! the Hippodrome is now deserted, and the only remnant of Ottoman chivalry we saw, was a ragged lad kicking and whipping a sorry nag over the parched and solitary arena.

## CHAPTER XXIII.

Les Eaux Douces—Engineer Barracks—Eyoub—Ancient Galleys—Bricks—Mounting Guard—Description of a Turkish Soldier—Power of the Sultan—Divan—The Officers composing it—Excursion to the Black Sea—Cyanea or Symplegades.

WE took a boat this morning in order to explore the upper part of the Golden Horn. The river Lycus, which is formed by the united streams of the Cydaris and Barbyses, runs through a lovely valley, called by the Turks Kiat Hannay, on account of a paper manufactory which once existed there. The French residents term it la vallée des eaux douces, which the English Ramsbottoms of Pera have *traduced* into the valley of sweet waters. We passed, on our right, the Koomberadjee Kooshlahsin, or the engineer barracks, and, on our left, the mosque of Eyoub, or Job, a disciple of the prophet, and whose bones were miraculously found here, and who is revered as the patron of Constantinople. It is the only mosque which strangers are not permitted to enter. The walls are said to be encrusted with the rarest marbles, and the floor covered with the richest carpets. There is preserved here a piece of striped brown and white marble, bearing the print of the prophet's foot. The tomb of the saint is surrounded by a balustrade of silver, and near it a well of miraculous water, which is drawn up in silver buckets, and presented to the faithful in vases of the same metal. In this mosque is preserved the sacred banner of the prophet, which we are informed is only unfurled on great occasions. On the distant heights above are the infantry barracks of the Ramuschiflek, where the sultan took up his residence during the recent war with Russia.

As we proceeded up the harbour the water became very shallow, and a number of red painted posts served to mark out the channel. We passed a long low building, which was said to contain many worn-out state barges. Several, of a prodigious size, were rotting outside. One, in particular, must have been at least of 100 tons burthen, and was constructed with forty ports. It is, perhaps, the last representative of the ancient row-galleys in existence, and, according to the description given by Meibomius, is about the size of the ancient Roman trireme. The land on each side now became a level marsh, while the barren treeless hills beyond were covered with Jewish and Armenian cemeteries. As we proceeded, the river Lycus dwindled to a petty creek, tastefully fringed along its banks with picturesque brickyards. These were not exactly the poetical images which the pompous descriptions of travellers had led us to anticipate, and we accordingly endeavoured to pick up a little information from our *caikgee*, by asking a few homely questions respecting the domestic manufactures. The bricks are much smaller than ours, and in fact resemble in shape and size small flat tiles. They sell at from \$3 87 to \$4 50 per thousand. In our farther progress up the stream the marshes disappeared, the valley became narrower, and various clumps of majestic trees gave a refreshing coolness and shade to this secluded spot, which is pent up between barren hills. A summer-house of the sultan, and the building which gives its name to the valley, were the only objects worthy attention, and we saw nothing to warrant the ecstasies of tourists, who have drawn largely upon their imaginations in their descriptions of this place. Their raptures would have been far better bestowed upon Hooncair iscalessee, Buyukdery, and a dozen other delightful valleys which steal up from both shores of the Bosphorus.

At a small wooden building, near the water's edge, where we stopped to take pipes and coffee, we witnessed a scene which, to veterans like ourselves in the New-York militia,

was exceedingly diverting. Two soldiers were stationed on guard at this spot, and, as their duty was not particularly burdensome, they were quickly kicking their heels over the bank, and endeavouring to inveigle some small fish (smaris), about the size of our killifish, out of the water. They could not, however, be accused of deserting their post, for their muskets were stuck up in the grass some two or three hundred yards off, doing duty for their masters. As the reports are very general that discontents exist among the soldiers, we requested our guide to sound these amateur fishermen on this subject. They acknowledged that they were dissatisfied, but not on account of their pay, which they considered handsome enough—whenever they were so lucky as to obtain it. But what they did grumble at, was to be compelled to mount guard with no other provision than their ration of bread, and they were then endeavouring to supply the deficiency by fishing. Their tour of duty, however, they said, would expire in a few days, and upon their return to barracks they would be perfectly happy, for they would then receive their full ration both of bread and meat. These soldiers must have been luxurious dogs, to complain about the want of meat, for the labouring class, whose toil would seem to require a very substantial fare, are satisfied with one meal a day, consisting of a small loaf of bread, and a piece of watermelon, or a few black and bitter olives. Upon examining the muskets of these soldiers, which they permitted us to do freely, we found them to be of Turkish manufacture. There was little to criticise, except that the stock of one musket was broken directly across, and held together by the extemporary aid of a piece of rope, while the other was perfect in every respect, except that it wanted a trigger. Neither had flints, but, as the country is now in a state of profound repose and peace, these would be quite superfluous.

One of the greatest difficulties to be overcome under the new army regulations, was to conquer the aversion of

the soldiery to mounting guard. Nothing appeared to them more ridiculous than to be compelled to walk backwards and forwards for several hours with a gun on their shoulders, just like the restless Franks; and what to them seemed to be the climax of absurdity, was, to keep up the same farce during the night. In the good old times of the Janizaries, such puerilities as mounting guard were never dreamed of. Indeed, guards could then have been of no earthly use, for all the plunderings and murders were monopolized by those cut-throats themselves. The dress of the modern Turkish soldier has partaken of the general change which has occurred within the last ten years, and whatever it may have lost in picturesque effect, it has certainly gained in effectiveness for military duty. Instead of loose slipshod slippers, he now wears stout serviceable shoes, securely fastened by leather strings. The huge balloon *chashkeers*, which impeded his every movement, have given place to woollen trowsers, still rather ample about the nether man, but not so large as to prevent him from making a rapid charge upon the enemy, or from run-



Modern Turkish Costume.

ning away. The glittering and flowing jubbee and bay-neesh are well exchanged for a smart tight-bodied blue jacket, closely hooked in front, and allowing perfect freedom to the limbs; while the turban, infinitely varied in



shape and colour, often ragged, and frequently dirty, suggesting the idea of walking toadstools, has for ever disappeared. In its place the soldier sports a tidy red cap, with a blue tassel gracefully depending from its crown. With the exception of the cap, and the still lingering amplitude of trowsers, the Turkish soldiers could scarcely be distinguished from the regulars of any European nation. The topegees, or artillery, wear a cylindrical military cap, and it was the wish of the sultan to have furnished it with a small rim in front, to protect the eye from the glare of the sun. This daring innovation was opposed, and successfully too, by the ulemah, that learned corps from whence emanate all the law, physic, and religion of the country. It was argued that no true Mussulman could perform his devotions without touching his forehead to the ground, and the proposed leather projection would render this impracticable. As no one happened to hit upon the idea that the cap might be turned around while at prayers, the sultan was compelled to give up the point, as he had previously done when it was attempted to induce the ulemah themselves to abandon the turban. They replied that they were not boys, nor would they wear boys' caps, and accordingly stuck manfully to the turban, in despite of the supposed absolute power of the Padir shah. Such anecdotes would lead one to believe that the sultan is far from being a perfect despot, whose word is law, and who takes no other counsel than his own caprice. The learned Ali Bey, himself a Mussulman, and of course better acquainted than we can pretend to be with the interior affairs of this government, wrote in the following manner twenty-five years ago, during the reign of Mustapha, the predecessor of the present sultan : " There is no greater slave in the world than the grand seignior. His steps, his movements, his words, throughout the whole of the year, and in all the events of his life, are measured and determined by the code of the court. He can do neither more nor less than is prescribed

for him. Reduced to the condition of an automaton, his actions are determined, like the result of mechanical impulse, by the code, the divan, the ulemah, and the Janizaries." Circumstances have, however, entirely changed since that period. The sultan now on the throne has displayed a resolution and energy of character totally different from the timid and irresolute policy pursued by his predecessors. The Janizaries have been exterminated. The code, the divan, and the ulemah still remain; but the latter occupy, as if ominous of their future destiny, the ancient palace of the agha of the Janizaries, and, except upon unimportant points, the sultan has made them understand that he is not to be trifled with. The divan has likewise undergone some modifications, and, under the name of council of state, assists in determining and arranging the affairs of the empire. The composition of the council is variously stated; but the following, for which we were indebted to a Turkish officer, may be depended upon as mainly correct. The number varies from fifteen to twenty-five, according to the pleasure of the sultan, and the exigences of the moment. Thus, the Beylichi Effendi has been recently taken into the council by a special order, and when information is wanted on particular points, the Esnaffs, or heads of the different corporations, are summoned to attend. The council at present consists of,

1. The Grand Vizier, now at Adrianople.
2. The Kaimakan Pacha, deputy of the Vizier in his absence.
3. The Seraisquier Pacha, generalissimo of the troops.
4. The Capudan Pacha, lord high admiral.
5. The Reis Effendi, minister of the interior and of foreign affairs.
6. The Katib Effendi, secretary.
7. The Beylichi Effendi, minister of commerce.
8. Beylichi Keishedar, secretary to minister of commerce.

9. Terse Ammani Bey, secretary of the navy.
10. Defterdar Effendi, secretary of the treasury or chancellor.
11. Achmedjee Effendi, keeper of the signet.
12. Mektubjee Effendi.
13. Teschrefdjee Effendi, master of ceremonies.
14. Selictar Aga, sword-bearer (office now abolished).
15. Reis Keischedar, chief purse-bearer.
16. Kayar Bey, assistant to the kaimakan.
17. Sirkatib Effendi, private secretary of the sultan.

Of this council the most influential members at present are the minister of the interior and the private secretary of the sultan. From the different stories in circulation it appears that the Turkish cabinet is the scene of various contending interests, and is far from being the "unit," so anxiously desired in other governments. For instance, the present Reis Effendi Pertef went out of office in February, 1830. Ill health was the public explanation; although others asserted that he gave deep offence by allowing the favourable moment of treaty with the Russians to pass away, and permitting himself to be made the instrument of the schismatic Armenians against their brethren. He is also accused of being in the English interest; but charges of this nature must necessarily be extremely vague. He is, however, termed, by the more enlightened Osmanlis, a bigoted fanatic, a real Turk, who opposes secretly every measure which is proposed for the best interests of the country. There are rumours that he will soon be compelled again to resign.

The secretary of the sultan, or as he is generally better known, Mustapha, is a man of singular activity and perseverance. He is the chief favourite, and, fortunately for the country, his views are directed to the advancement of its prosperity and welfare. He is said to possess immense wealth, and to be actively engaged in commerce. Others, however, assert that in his transactions he employs the funds of the sultan, and acts solely as his agent. He has

already distinguished himself in his various efforts to improve the agriculture and manufactures of Turkey by the introduction of foreign farmers and mechanics, and is a worthy coadjutor of the sultan in his several plans for ameliorating the condition of the poor.\*

*Tuesday.* Tempted by the appearance of quails in the market, and the exaggerated report of their abundance, we were induced to go in search of them on the shores of the Black Sea. The day was very unfavourable. The wind came down in heavy blasts from the Euxine, accompanied by such frequent and copious showers of rain that we were thoroughly drenched; and upon our arrival were compelled to take refuge several hours in a stone hut, which had been abandoned by its former inhabitants. The season has just begun for quail shooting; as these birds have commenced their annual migrations from Russia to Anatolia, Syria, and Egypt. After crossing the Black Sea, they arrive so much exhausted by their long flight that they are scarcely able to move, and are then easily taken. Repose for one night, or a part of a day, seems sufficient to restore their exhausted strength, and they immediately resume their flight.

Although this region is much elevated and exposed to the damp and piercing north winds, the vineyards were in the most flourishing condition: the vines were literally breaking down under the weight of the most delicious grapes ever tasted. The vineyards were cultivated with the greatest care; every weed had been carefully extirpated, and the loose rich soil had been worked to a great depth. The soil results from the decomposition of the argillaceous rock already alluded to, which forms the substratum of this region. On some of the eminences, it was remarked that this rock appeared to pass into a compact bluish mass, resembling trap; but it is probable that

\* Mustapha has since been dismissed from Constantinople, and honoured with a pachalik.

these were unconformable masses of basalt, and this is strengthened by the general volcanic character of the adjacent rocks. A few miserable birds, such as a species of *saxicola* and a couple of shrikes (*L. rufus* and *collurio*) were the only trophies of our day's sport ; and we bent our steps to Phaneraki, the ancient Panium, a miserable, but picturesque village at the mouth of the Bosphorus. Here we endeavoured to procure some refreshments, but were compelled to restrict ourselves to bread and water, both excellent, it must be acknowledged ; although in our wet and jaded condition a more stimulating diet would have been highly acceptable. The rock here is a black volcanic porphyry, often containing imbedded masses of other volcanic rocks, and in many places assuming the appearance of a black slag recently from the furnace. This rock extends on both sides of the Bosphorus for several miles down, and also forms the small island Cyanea, or Symplegades. This lies about 400 yards from the European shore, with which it was formerly connected, as we could plainly perceive from the heights of Phaneraki. From our elevated position we could distinctly trace the reef, or sandbar, over which the sea was now breaking with great fury. This island, lying near the mouth of the Bosphorus, was formerly much dreaded by seamen, and may possibly be an object of terror at the present day. It is mentioned by the earliest writers, and is memorable as the spot where Jason was shipwrecked on his return voyage with the golden fleece. This splendid tradition, we may be allowed to insinuate, was nothing more nor less than a solemn attempt to commemorate the daring enterprise of the first speculator in the wool-trade, and history confirms this conjecture, for the shores of the Black Sea furnished this important article of trade from the earliest times.

The island itself is one irregular mass of black rock, transmuted by modern poets into the "Blue Symplegades," and copied from the ancient name Cyanea. Upon its sum-

mit there stood about 100 years ago a Corinthian column, with an inscription dedicated to the Emperor Augustus. The column has disappeared, and the inscription has been defaced by idle visitors. Nothing more remains but the pedestal, which is of white marble, about five feet high and ten in circumference. Festoons of laurel leaves with rams' heads are still to be seen on the pedestal, which is supposed, and with great probability, to be of remote antiquity. It is conjectured to have been an altar, or sacred spot, where the seaman either deposited propitiatory offerings for a fortunate voyage, or offered up grateful sacrifices to the "unknown god" for his safe return.

The wind, which had blown with great violence during the whole day, increased towards evening to a perfect gale, and gave us an opportunity of testing the properties of our six-oared caik. Almost every wave threatened to overwhelm us ; but she floated on the surface like an egg-shell, and we reached home late in the evening, almost famished, and quite drenched to the skin.

## CHAPTER XXIV.

Sultan Mahmoud—Deposition of his Predecessor—Narrow Escape of Mahmoud—His Personal Appearance—Final extinction of the Janizaries—Waltzing Dervises—Bonneval—His eventful History.

LEARNING that the sultan would perform his devotions this day at the mosque of Beshiktash, we proceeded to that village, in order to have a view of the Commander of the Faithful. Like his royal cousins in other countries, he is exemplary in his attention to the externals of religion, as an example to his subjects. He scarcely ever visits the same mosque twice in succession, but it is always easy to ascertain the day beforehand at what mosque he will pay his devotions. On our arrival at the village we found the street crowded. One side was occupied by a line of soldiers, while the other was filled with a promiscuous crowd of men, women, and children. We took our station in the shop-window of an Armenian cabinet-maker—and while we are waiting for his majesty, let us while away the time in sketching his history.

Mahmoud is the son of the Sultan Abdulhamid, and there is a vague report that his mother was a French-woman, who by some odd casualty found her way into the royal harem. It is probable, however, that this story originated in the fondness which Mahmoud has always displayed for foreign improvements. It is fair to infer that there is no foundation for this story, from the simple fact that the sultan was unacquainted with the French language, when he undertook to learn it thoroughly a few years ago. Upon the death of his father in 1789, according to the Turkish law of succession, his cousin Selim, as the oldest surviving

male heir, ascended the throne. In the various attempts made by this able and virtuous prince to improve the condition of his people, he was continually thwarted by the turbulent and ferocious Janizaries; and at length, in 1807, was compelled to resign. His place was filled by his cousin Mustapha the Fourth, the brother of the present sultan. The character of Mustapha was marked by feebleness and indecision, and his reign was short and bloody. The events which led to his downfall are so distinctly and graphically related by Hobhouse, that no apology will be necessary for transferring his account to our own pages.

“ Mustapha, Pacha of Rudshuk, retained in the surname of Bairactar (the ensign) a memorial of the humble rank which he had held in the Turkish armies, and carried about with him, affixed as it were to his person, a visible instance of that exaltation of merit of which Turkish history can furnish so many and such extraordinary examples. He was rude and illiterate, but of a vigorous genius, which supplied the expedients as well as the suggestions of ambition, and rising with every exigency, proved equal to the creation and the accomplishment of the most daring projects. After repeatedly distinguishing himself in the armies of the empire, he attracted the notice of Selim, and was honoured with a pachalik. It was the boast of Bairactar that he owed every thing to the personal regard of the sultan, and his subsequent conduct proved that he respected Selim as his patron and his friend. From the moment he was informed of the deposition of Selim, it appears that he formed the bold design of seizing upon the government, and convinced of the pernicious measures of the Janizaries, or seeing no other way of raising himself than by depressing that lawless body, he determined upon opposing the hardy troops of the provinces to the enervated militia of Constantinople. Accordingly, he collected a force of nearly 40,000 men, composed chiefly of Albanians from the garri-sons of Roumelia, and marching to Constantinople, he en-



camped on the plains of Davoot Pacha, four miles from the walls of the city. He convoked the chief men of the empire, and depositing the banner of Mohammed, which he had unfurled to give sanction and support to his enterprise, made them swear to the gradual abolition of the Janizaries, and a restoration of the good order and tranquillity of the state. Even the semblance of power was transferred from the seraglio to the camp at Davoot Pacha, for the minister of the Porte and the foreign missions at Pera, directed their visits of ceremony to the camp of the victorious general, who, without any acknowledged title or specific office, was thus for several months in the full possession of the imperial power. But the pacha, aware that the Mussulmans, accustomed to revere the representative of their prophet, might experience a renewal of pity for their degraded sovereign, resolved upon the elevation of a sultan who, in return for a crown, might render his authority legitimate, and give a sanction to his ambition.

“The 28th of July, 1808, was fixed upon by Mustapha for a hunting expedition to the forests of Belgrade, and it was determined by Bairactar to enter the seraglio on the same day, during the absence of the Grand Seignior, and, preventing his return to the palace, finally to exclude him from the throne. Selim was yet alive in those apartments of the seraglio which the crimes and misfortunes of the Ottomans have set apart for the confinement of their dethroned princes; and it was the preservation of the sultan, whom he resolved to restore, that prompted him to attempt by stratagem that which he might have accomplished by force. Unfortunately the secret of his intentions was not confined to his own breast, but was intrusted to several ministers of the divan, and the grand vizier, though a friend; was suspected of having betrayed him to the sultan; for on the appointed day, when Bairactar marched into the city, he found the gates of the seraglio closed, the pages

and body-guard under arms, and every preparation for a determined resistance.

“The victorious rebel, disappointed, but not intimidated, gave orders for an immediate assault. The contest lasted only a short time, but the interval was fatal to Selim. On the sound of the first shot, the emissaries of the sultan were despatched to his apartment, where they found, as is reported, the dethroned monarch at his devotions, and attempted to surprise him while in the attitude of prayer. He discerned their purpose, and before the bowstring could be fitted to his neck wounded one of the mutes with his handjari; but being thrown upon his back was overpowered and instantly strangled. From the murder of Selim, the executioners proceeded to the apartments of Mahmoud, the youngest son of Abdulhamid, and the only remaining prince of the blood royal. There was still some hopes for the sultan in the eventual death of his brother. Selim was no more; the rebels, even the audacious Bairactar himself, would respect the last of the Ottoman race. The mutes rushed into the chamber of the confined prince, but Mahmoud was nowhere to be found; the fond fidelity of a slave had concealed him in the furnace of a bath. The feeble contest continued under the walls, and the assailants thundered at the gate, while the search for the prince was prosecuted with redoubled eagerness and anxiety. The place of his concealment had alone escaped the scrutiny, and the fate of the monarchy depended upon whether or not the gates should be forced before the royal prisoner was discovered. What must have been the feelings of Mahmoud, what the sensations of his faithful slave, when the shout of the Albanians proclaimed that Bairactar had forced his way into the seraglio? The insurgents rushed to the interior of the palace, headed by their leader and by the intrepid Seid Ali, the capudan pacha. Advancing to the third gate, they called aloud for the instant appearance of Selim, and the eunuchs of Mustapha, casting the body of

the murdered monarch before them, exclaimed, 'Behold the sultan whom ye seek.' Bairactar, overpowered at the sight, threw himself on the corpse and wept bitterly ; but at length, roused by the exhortations of Seid Ali, who told him that this was not a time for grief, but for revenge, he proceeded hastily to the presence-chamber. Mustapha never showed himself worthy of the crown until compelled to resign it. He did not despair of awing the rebels into submission by the Ottoman majesty ; at least he was determined to fall with dignity. On the entrance of Bairactar, he was found seated on his throne in his usual state, and surrounded by the officers of the imperial household. The indignant chief was not moved by this august spectacle, but advancing towards the sultan drew him from his seat, saying to him in a bold and angry tone, 'What dost thou there? Yield that place to a worthier!' The accounts of his conduct are variously related in the different reports of this last transaction of his reign ; but whatever was the measure of his resistance it proved ineffectual ; for on the same night the cannon of the seraglio announced to the people the dethronement of Mustapha the Fourth, and the elevation of his brother, Mahmoud the Second."

In a contest subsequent to this period with the Janizaries, Bairactar perished in the manner we have related in the preceding pages ; and to avert their wrath, the counselors of Mahmoud thought fit to secure him the throne by murdering his imprisoned brother Mustapha. In these bloody scenes more than 10,000 perished in Constantinople and its suburbs, and the power of the Janizaries was more firmly fixed than ever.

We had not occupied our station more than half an hour, when the military band struck up Sultan Mahmoud's March, which announced his approach. As this was an ordinary occasion, there was little of that pomp and parade which commonly attends his appearance in public. First came some of the upper officers of his household ; then

four or five led horses richly caparisoned; and last of all, the great man himself. No rude huzza, no boisterous shouts, announced his approach. The men cast their eyes to the ground, the women looked up to him with eyes most dutifully beaming with loyalty, and the general silence was only interrupted by the order to present arms, and the accompanying clang of muskets. The sultan wore on his head the ordinary red fez of the country, and his person was enveloped in a fawn-coloured silk cloak, fastened round his neck by a brilliant diamond clasp. His majesty rides on a European saddle with long stirrups, and has the reputation of being the most fearless rider in his dominions. He was much aided in the great reform which he introduced into his cavalry regiments by an Italian named Calosso, who as a riding-master has introduced the European equipments, and succeeded in abolishing the former awkward and ungainly Turkish mode of managing their horses. Calosso's services have been highly appreciated, and the sultan has given him the rank of bey, and of an officer in his royal household, without asking him to change his religion. This is said to be the first instance of the kind that has occurred. As the sultan approached, those who had petitions to present for redress of grievances held them over their heads, and upon a given signal handed them to an attendant, by whom they were laid before the sultan on his return from the mosque. In these cases we are informed speedy justice is obtained; if favourable, the applicant is immediately gratified; if unfavourable, he receives his petition torn in two, and from this there is no appeal.

We took off our hats as the sultan approached, and he did us the honour of examining us with much attention. Agreeably to the homely adage that a cat may look upon a king, we returned the royal stare with equal freedom and minuteness. Sultan Mahmoud is now forty-four years old, and has reigned twenty-four years. A regular but strongly-

marked cast of features, large black and piercing eyes, a complexion rendered somewhat pale by its proximity to a long coal-black beard, and a mouth strongly indicative of firmness, formed the ensemble of his countenance. We have had the honour of doffing our beaver to most of the crowned heads of Europe, but in all that constitutes a superb-looking man, we give the palm to the Sultan Mahmoud. His face indicates indomitable firmness and decision of character, and at the same time displays a mild and amiable disposition. As we gazed upon him we could not avoid recalling his eventful history, and speculating upon his future destiny. Schooled in adversity, and a fellow-prisoner with his royal cousin Selim (from whom, indeed, it is said, he received all his ideas of reform), he seems to form a proper estimate of his exalted station, by using all its influence advantageously for his country. In this he is often thwarted by the venality and rapacity of his subordinates, and by the indolence of his people, but he returns to the charge with renewed ardour, and seems determined to pursue his patriotic course even at the expense of personal popularity. Temperate and even abstemious in his mode of living, he may yet reign for twenty years over Turkey, and in that time his wise and temperate measures of reform will be so firmly seated as to bid defiance to another revolution. Every friend of humanity must hope that his life may long be spared for this good work. From his people he has nothing personally to fear. As the successor of the caliphs, the true descendants of their great lawgiver and prophet, he bears about him a charmed life, which sets at defiance the poisoned chalice of the secret enemy, or the pistol of the open foe. In the eyes of every true Mussulman he is emphatically, "By the grace of God a king."

It is impossible to behold the Sultan Mahmoud without recurring to those scenes of blood through which he has been compelled to wade, not only for his own personal

safety, but to secure the welfare of his country. The institution of the Janizaries under Murad or Amurath I. was in its commencement highly advantageous to the Ottoman empire. In the course of events they lost their once proud superiority over their European enemies, and became more dangerous to the state than to the foreign foe. As far back as 1620, Osman II., after his disastrous campaigns against the Poles, in which their cruelty and cowardice were alike conspicuous, endeavoured to rid himself of this corps, which had even then rendered the monarch a mere automaton in their hands. To carry his purpose into execution, he gave out that he proposed to make the pilgrimage to Mecca. His real intention was to reach Cairo, there to raise up an army among the Egyptians, with which he proposed to destroy every vestige of the Janizaries. Unfortunately his views were penetrated, and cost him his throne and life. It was probably with reference to any similar attempts in future that subsequent sultans were not permitted to leave the capital. The repeated reverses of the Ottoman arms clearly exhibited to each reigning sultan the necessity of abolishing this corps; but every attempt even to introduce the slightest change in its organization, was the precursor of a stormy revolution, which only terminated with the death of the sultan. We have already seen that the present sultan had been twice foiled in his attempt to curb this lawless soldiery. Events, however, were pressing upon him with such fearful rapidity, that nothing was left for him between the loss of life and the destruction of his empire, or the total extinction of the Janizaries. He saw his best and his bravest troops conquered by a half-armed rabble in Greece, while the same rabble fled panic-struck before the disciplined legions of his Egyptian viceroy. To have hesitated longer would have been madness, and he accordingly, early in 1826, commenced his preparations for a conflict which, however it might terminate, would be ferocious and bloody. He began

by increasing the number of his artillerists or topegees to thirty thousand men. These had been necessarily trained to the European exercise of guns, and their officers were the best educated and most enlightened in the service. The men themselves being aware that they were peculiar objects of detestation to the Janizaries, repaid their hate with interest, and entered warmly into the views of the sultan. Having thus secured a substantial support, Mahmoud began his reform of the Janizaries. He ordered that a certain number should be selected from each regiment to be drilled, armed, and equipped in the European manner. He had previously gained over the most influential and resolute of their officers, and caused them to swear to defend the new system. The men were at first pleased with the idea of increased pay, but the new discipline, arms, and tactics, soon aroused all their ancient bigotry, and they began in their usual way to murder all who were considered to be inimical to their interests, and burned their dwellings to the ground. Although such ferocious acts had been successful for nearly four centuries, yet they had now a man to deal with who, combining consummate prudence with bold determination, was resolved, after trying mild measures, to extirpate the whole body, or perish himself amid the flames of his capital. Superintending all the preparations in person, he assembled his faithful artillerists in the gardens of the seraglio, and unfurling the sacred standard of the prophet, called upon all his subjects to rally around him, for the safety, not only of the throne, but of the empire itself. They promptly answered to this appeal, and Mahmoud now, for the first time, felt assured of success in the approaching conflict. He then summoned the mutinous Janizaries to appear before the sacred banner in token of submission; but they refused obedience, although formally summoned three times, and put to death, with every circumstance of cold-blooded barbarity, the grand vizier and two other high officers of the crown, who had

been sent as messengers by the sultan. Finding it in vain to treat upon any terms with these savage cut-throats, and fortified with the formal consent of the ulemah, he ordered his troops to march upon them, and after a severe struggle drove them into their barracks. Here they were assailed by cannon-shot and bomb-shells, and such as escaped the flames of the barracks were shot or cut down without mercy. Not a single Janizary escaped; and throughout the provinces the same bloody scenes took place wherever they attempted the least resistance. A few weak attempts were made in their favour during the following month; but by the merciless severity which it had been found necessary to adopt towards them, the whole body was destroyed and their name abolished for ever.

We retired from the scene highly gratified, and perhaps our pleasure was enhanced by the almost total absence of silly state pageantry. There was, in fact, but little of that oriental pomp and magnificence, which, perhaps, would have diverted our attention from the main object of our curiosity. We have still in our mind the complaint of a traveller during the reign of Mustapha, who was prevented from seeing the sultan by the towering feathers of his pages and guards.

The transition from kings to jugglers is not very abrupt, and we therefore make no apology for introducing the reader to another oriental lion, which is one of the curiosities of "the well-defended city." In visiting the dancing, or rather the waltzing, dervises, we were prepared to see some solemn mockeries of religion, or some unmeaning mummeries, like those practised by our own Shakers, and in this we were not disappointed. The tekkay, or chapel, of these dervises stands in the main street of Pera, and is a beautiful and tasteful building. On the left, as we entered the main gate, is a small cemetery for those saints whose lives have been such perfect models here below, that their



influence and intercession with Mohammed is thought to be considerable in the regions above.

Among these patterns of piety who would expect to find a French soldier with a highly sculptured turbaned stone, announcing that a pacha reposes beneath? And yet such is the case. It is the tomb of Bonneval, a spirited and highly accomplished French officer, who rose to the rank of general in the French service. Disgusted with some treatment he received, he resigned his commission and entered the Austrian service, where his talents and bravery elevated him to the rank of field-marshal. Upon some quarrel with Prince Eugene, he challenged him, and by the severe regulations of that service was condemned to death by a council of war. He made his escape to Venice, but his enemies were upon the point of seizing him there, when he fled to Constantinople. Even here he was not safe, for the Austrian minister made a formal demand for him of the Turkish government. To avoid this he became a Mussulman and a Turkish subject, or as he expressed it, "exchanged his nightcap for a turban." He was the intimate friend of Jean Baptiste Rousseau, and appears to have been a man of high literary attainments. He rose rapidly in the Turkish service, and distinguished himself in several bloody engagements. He was made Pacha of Karamania, and died in 1746, a general of engineers, and a pacha of three tails.

Carefully taking off our boots and shoes at the door of the chapel, and carrying them in under our arms, we entered just as the exercises had begun. Within a large area in the centre of the chapel, and railed off from the spectators, five dervises were spinning round like tops, while an instrument like a flageolet, but blown through the nose, poured forth from the gallery a monotonous and lugubrious air. The heads of the dervises were covered with a high conical cap, a tight short jacket enveloped the body, and a coarse loose gown completed their attire.

An aged dervise stood at the eastern side of the enclo-

sure, and appeared to be at the same time the master of ceremonies, and the chief object of the adoration of the others. While they were performing their gyrations their eyes were closed, their hands steadfastly extended, and their gowns opened out by their revolutions in the manner of "making cheeses," as practised by our little folks at home. Gradually the music assumed a louder tone, and a tambourine and kettledrum struck in with the wild and plaintive strain. At the expiration of about five minutes the music and the spinning ceased, and then commenced a series of bows, which would have been deemed graceful even in a Parisian salon. After performing several of these salaams with divers ad libitum variations, and the perspiration oozing from every pore, they again began spinning upon the carefully waxed floor, while several male voices now joined in the plaintive chorus. At two o'clock the music, the spinning, the singing, and the bowing ceased; the waltzers dropped on their knees with their faces to the ground, while the attendants threw over them thick cloaks to prevent their cooling too suddenly. We left the chapel with mingled feelings of contempt at witnessing such monstrous absurdities, practised under the name of religion; and pity for the audience, who seemed disposed to consider them in the light of divine inspirations.

## CHAPTER XXV.

Koom Boornoo—Ancient Roads—Ak Baba Keui—Fountains—Persimmon—Cavern—Former Level of the Euxine—Anadol-phaneraki—Soldiery—Yankee Doodle—Forts on the Bosphorus—Anecdote of a Turk—Italian Sermon.

KOOM BOORNOO is one of the few natural curiosities in the environs of Constantinople, and is so little known that it was only by a casual hint in Clarke's Travels that we were made aware of its existence. It is a remarkable headland on the Asiatic coast of the Black Sea, about thirty miles from the capital, and is represented as consisting of a group of basaltic columns, similar to those of the Giant's Causeway in Ireland. As we had many years previously visited the great Irish phenomenon, we were naturally disposed to compare it with its Asiatic namesake. To Koom Boornoo, then, it was determined to go, and our starting place was from Hooncair iscalessee, where, by the polite attention of a friend, we found horses in readiness for the journey. Our road lay through the beautiful broad valley already described. Natural clumps of majestic trees were scattered over the plain: while the numerous young trees, recently set out, gave promise at some future day of lending new charms to the already lovely scene. Our party was composed of six persons, including our surrurgee or guide, Mahmoud; and from some mistake in the previous arrangements, we were furnished with only four horses. But as galloping, or even trotting, is seldom practised in travelling in this country, it was very easy to accommodate ourselves to this diminution of our cavalry. We adopted the primitive plan of "ride and tie," as practised by the renowned Joseph Andrews; and it was soon discovered

that a very general preference was given to walking, rather than encounter the balancing requisite upon the uncouth Turkish saddle.

The road carried us along near the bed of a mountain-torrent, and the deep and broad channel which it had worn into the loamy alluvial soil, indicated that during the season of rains it must form no inconsiderable stream. We soon began to ascend a steep hill, where labourers were engaged in quarrying stone for the buildings at the landing-place. As no carts are used in this country for the transportation of materials, the stones were awkwardly heaped up on the backs of asses, and secured by means of ropes. We shortly afterward came upon a regular paved road, resembling those constructed by the Romans, and there can be little doubt in referring this to the period of the Greek empire. Passing through a neat pretty little village called Ak Baba Keui, or the village of the white-headed father, we struck into a narrow path which wound along in a serpentine manner along the sides of a mountain. This path scarcely permitted a single person to pass along, and it was completely overshadowed by dense foliage which screened us from the sun. We met several Bulgarian charcoal-burners returning from the mountains, and the bulky burthens on their horses compelled us frequently to quit the path and dive by main force into the adjoining thickets. Abundance of large ripe blackberries, and likewise a delicious bright red fruit resembling a cherry, but with a mild subacid flavour, induced us often to loiter on our way. The latter is the fruit of the cornus mas or cornel-tree, to which frequent allusion is made by the ancient poets. Occasionally, as the heat of the day and the toil of the journey became more urgent, we stopped at pretty fountains along our path, overrunning with fresh and pure water. At these places we were always sure of finding a commodious drinking utensil, considerably left by some benevolent traveller.

There is nothing which reminds the stranger more that he is in the East than the universal attention paid to the minutest source of water. The smallest rill is carefully husbanded: in the deepest recesses of the forest and in the midst of a barren plain one is surprised at coming suddenly upon a marble fountain, tastefully executed, and gushing out the purest water. In our own happy country, so highly favoured by the hand of Providence, we can scarcely realize the whole force and beauty of those splendid oriental images employed in the Scriptures, derived from this source.

The neighbouring hills abound in wolves and jackals, which frequently come down to the village, and make sad havoc among such of the asinine race as have been carelessly left in the open fields. An acquaintance of ours residing near Stamboul, lost two fine asses in one night in this manner; and they carried their boldness so far as to attack his large and powerful English mastiff, whose torn and bleeding body still bears the marks of a desperate conflict.

Our path, as we ascended, became more and more indistinct; and when we reached the summit of a ridge of hills, our surrurgee was evidently at a nonplus. Taking the distant minarets of Constantinople and the shores of the Black Sea which bounded the northern horizon as our guides, we determined to select a path for ourselves. The fields were covered with the *Buglos* (*C. crispus*), and occasionally the *Laurus nobilis*, with its dense foliage and aromatic odour. In the hedges we noted, to the detriment of our clothes, the *Rhamnus paliurus* with its double set of thorns, and which would form an excellent hedge, impenetrable alike to man or beast. This is the most common thorn in Palestine, and is very generally supposed to be the identical species that was used to bind round the brows of our Saviour. We also noticed that noble tree, known here under the name of the Trebizond plum, but which in fact is

the *Diospyros lotus*. Its fruit, although small, resembles in taste and appearance our luscious persimmon. The tree is more lofty and branched than its American congener. Of the low scrubby oak (*Quercus coccifera*), which affords the Kermus dye, and the *Arbutus unedo*, we also collected specimens. The sportsmen of the party met with little success, but bagged in true cockney style a few cuckoos and crows.

A ride of three or four hours over the summits of several elevated hills brought us to a beautiful valley, covered with luxuriant grass, upon which were grazing large flocks of sheep and goats, attended as in the primitive pastoral times by shepherds. The sight of this verdant slope, and the appearance of a poplar-tree and a haystack, the first we had seen in Turkey, transported us in imagination to our own green fields and luxuriant pastures across the Atlantic. Crossing this valley, we ascended a gentle slope, which brought us to the brow of a precipice overhanging the sea. This was Koom Boornoo, so called from a low sandy beach, or cape, which may be seen on either side of this promontory. By a little extra exertion it is possible to descend to the water's edge; and such of our party as were not unwilling to incur a little personal risk were amply rewarded for the labour. The rock consists of a dark, almost black, volcanic porphyry, but its columnar structure is not apparent until you have descended some distance down the cliff. Near the water-edge one may walk over the tops of columns as at Staffa and the Giant's Causeway; and looking up, he sees, almost impending over his head, other columns forty and fifty feet high. The columns are of various sizes and figures, but chiefly assume the pentagonal form. The interstices were often scarcely perceptible, but in many instances distinct, and filled up with quartz and chalcedony. In some few instances small pieces of metallic copper were discovered, which lead to conjectures that they had formerly belonged to shipwrecked vessels.

The greenish hue which pervades many of the rocks in the neighbourhood of Stamboul, indicating some of the forms of copper, would induce us to suspect that the pieces just alluded to may have been derived from some vein in the vicinity. This promontory is apparently about the height of the palisades on the Hudson ; but does not preserve its prismatic form for more than four hundred yards. It will, therefore, readily be perceived that in extent it cannot be compared with the two European localities just alluded to, although it will amply reward the visiter.

From the summit of the cape we had a magnificent view of the Euxine, now in a state of calm but deceitful repose, with its rugged iron-bound shores, at present enjoying a cessation from the boiling waves which usually lash its sides. As far as the eye could reach, innumerable vessels of all nations were seen dotting its surface, with their snow-white sails scarcely distended by a faint southern breeze. On our left, we beheld the Phaneraki of Thrace and the black Symplegades ; while to the east, the bold point of Kara Boornoo with its isolated rock stretched boldly out into the Euxine, and beyond were the far receding shores of Asia. We may here incidentally mention that the Patriarch of Constantinople, in the chart accompanying his description of that city,\* calls this and a few other adjacent rocks *Κυανεαι υφαλτοι*, or the Black Islands ; a name which Clarke applies also to the Symplegades on the European side of the Bosphorus. They may, however, both be right, but we leave the question as we find it.

Having concluded our examination of this interesting spot, we descended from the promontory and again crossed, near the seashore, the valley which we had traversed on our way to Koom Boornoo. A large cavity in a bluff, near the water-edge and facing the sea, attracted our attention.

\* *Κωνσταντίνος παλαια τε και νεωτερα ετοι  
Κωνσταντινουπολεως.*—Βενετια, 1824.

We found it sufficiently spacious to contain our whole party on horseback, and it was evidently scooped out by the action of the waves, which in high north gales still enter the cavern. The rock is similar to that of Koom Boornoo, with large imbedded nodules of the same material, but rather more compact in its structure. The frequent occurrence of this sort of porphyritic conglomerate, if we may be allowed the term, would seem to indicate that this region has been the seat, not of one, but of many successive volcanic eruptions. We searched in vain along this whole coast for any indications of the Black Sea having once stood at a higher level. Nor were there the least traces either of water-worn cliffs, except at the present level, or of rolled pebbles, along the shore. The coast for miles consists alternately of beaches of fine sand, with bluffs and capes of volcanic porphyry. It would perhaps be unreasonable to expect to find exactly at this spot any traces of a former high level, even admitting that such was formerly the case; but they might be detected at other places along the coast.

The declining sun admonished us to pursue our journey homeward, and we accordingly hastened towards Anadolphaneraki, or the village at the mouth of the Bosphorus, in which is placed the Asiatic lighthouse. From the hill on which the village stands we were presented with a striking view of the volcanic promontory which we had just visited. The village is prettily situated upon a bold bluff, jutting out into the Black Sea, and is protected by a battery of twenty guns near the water's edge. The lighthouse is a circular stone building, forty feet high, surrounded by a wall, and containing many subterranean arched vaults. Although now much dilapidated, it was formerly strongly fortified, as the embrasures testify; and we should be disposed to attribute its erection to the Venetians or Genoese. The lantern is only open towards the sea. ---

In the main street of the village we sat down under a



vine-arbour, in the neighbourhood of a coffee-shop, and commenced a vigorous assault upon the provender which we had taken the precaution to provide beforehand. There is a small garrison of fifty soldiers here, and, as the time seemed to hang heavy on their hands, they loitered about our arbour, regarding us with much curiosity, but at the same time with a civility bordering upon ceremonious respect. Encouraged by our questions, they approached nearer, and an animated intercourse was soon established. These soldiers, we learned, were drafted from one of the interior provinces of Asia, and had but recently arrived, so that, in all probability, we were among the first foreigners they had ever seen. And yet they were remarkably civil and courteous, although they knew us to be the enemies of their faith. A similar party of soldiers in an obscure village, in many parts of Europe, would, in all probability, have shown an insolent deportment towards unarmed and peaceable strangers. To read the accounts of travellers, as late even as Macfarlane, one would suppose that it was dangerous to travel alone in Turkey, and that even to look upon a soldier would be attended with personal hazard. Such may possibly have been the case during the reign of the turbulent and fanatical Janizaries, but I can aver, from my own experience, that a person may now travel in any part of Turkey without peril of life or limb, except as endangered by the ordinary casualties of a journey.

This excellent order and public tranquillity is to be attributed to the energetic measures of the present sultan, and, for the purpose of curbing still further the natural insolence of an ignorant soldiery, they are not permitted to wear arms, except when on duty. Indeed, the rule has become a general one for all classes, and if by chance you meet with one armed, he is either a traveller just arrived from the interior, or one of the scarlet showmen attached to each European embassy. These *kavasses*, as they are termed, are, as far as costume is concerned, the last remains

of the Janizaries, but are, in fact, livery-servants of the ambassadors. They certainly make a most formidable appearance, and, as they approach, appear to be bristling with swords, daggers, yataghans, pistols, and other deadly weapons, which stick out of their belts in the most threatening manner. I had the curiosity one day to stop one of these Turkish noli-me-tangeres, and to examine his armory. In this I was good-naturedly assisted by the man himself. It consisted of a hanjar, the handle of which was studded with cornelians, but the blade was wanting; a tastefully decorated dagger could not be unsheathed; a pair of silver-mounted pistols had no flints; and, in fact, the only really offensive or defensive weapon was an ivory-handled pair of tongs, used to place a coal of fire to his tobacco pipe. Let us rejoice that these things are so, for there can be no surer sign of the precarious nature of a government, and the inefficacy of its laws, than where individuals are obliged to carry weapons for self-protection.

The soldiers of the garrison examined my fowling-piece with much minuteness, and when I snapped off several percussion caps, great was their astonishment, and copious the showers of Mashallahs! and Ollah Kayrims! When the gun was put into their hands to repeat the experiment, it was remarked that, like the militia of a country which shall be nameless, they shut their eyes or turned away the head when they pulled the trigger. This, of course, will be corrected by dint of practice. In explaining to them that we were Americans, they appeared to have very vague ideas of our country, but the mention of the New World cleared up the mystery immediately; and it is not unlikely that hereafter the idea of an American and a percussion cap will be intimately associated in the minds of these simple-minded Asiatics. It is curious that the Turkish words "yenyee doonyee," or new world, should resemble our yankee doodle, and it is possible that some future American *Vallaney* may enlist these words in the chain of

evidence, by which he will attempt to prove our lineage in a direct line from the parent stock which formerly inhabited the mountains of Altai.

Committing our horses to the care of our faithful sururgee, we descended, by a steep path, to the beach, where a caïk had been engaged, in order to vary as much as possible our little excursion. Alternately sailing and rowing along the Asiatic shore, we had leisure to admire and sketch the various bold and striking features of this rocky coast. Here appeared dikes or walls of solid rock, stretching out boldly into the breakers from the green moulding rock surrounding them; while, farther on, large masses would thrust themselves above the water, and assume various grotesque forms. To one of these singular rocks a lively fancy has given the name of "the easy-chair," from its strong resemblance to that venerable piece of furniture. At one spot a small circular lonely-looking tower crowned the summit of a hill, whose base was washed by the sea, and formed a *bit* worthy to exercise the pencil of Weir.

We next passed *Poreas-liman*, a thirty-eight gun battery, erected on rocks disposed in nearly horizontal strata, with a picturesque valley in its vicinity. This, and the nearly opposite fortress of Karipchay on the European side, were constructed in the year 1773, under the inspection of the celebrated Baron de Tott. They were both enlarged, altered, and improved by Sebastiani in 1806. Shortly after passing the fine old ruined castle heretofore described, we came up with the thirty-two gun battery of Kawah Anadoli, where all vessels must stop to clear before entering the Black Sea. The whole transit duty for each vessel amounts to fifteen cents. No vessels are allowed to pass after dark, and a shoal opposite compels all vessels to keep close in with the Asiatic shore where this battery is erected.

Both shores of the Bosphorus are lined in this manner for twenty-eight or thirty miles, from the Euxine to the Sea of Marmora, with heavy batteries, mounting in all three

hundred guns of every caliber. But with all this formidable array of cannon, it may be doubted whether they could oppose successfully a determined enemy. The current runs frequently at the rate of six knots an hour. A fleet, aided by a strong breeze, might pass them all in a very short time with little loss, and anchor in the Golden Horn, where no guns could be brought to act successfully against them. During the late war with Russia, one is at a loss to conjecture why the Muscovites did not at once boldly force this passage, and seize upon Constantinople before their *faithful allies* had time to interfere. It is true that a failure would have been attended with a total destruction of the fleet, but these are incidental risks, which the thorough seaman knows how to appreciate, and is always prepared to hazard. But even the loss of a fleet would have been attended with less expenditure of blood and treasure than was actually incurred in forcing the passage of the Balkan. In the event of another rupture, it is highly probable that Russia will adopt this course; and the numerous vessels now constructing at Sebastopol, and other ports of the Euxine, may be considered as indicative of her future policy.

On the morning after this excursion a young Turk called to inquire whether I had not lost a game-bag on the previous day. I had, in fact, very carelessly left it on the shore of the Black Sea, and was expressing my regret for its loss when my worthy hostess, the princess, although a Greek herself, assured me that if it should be found by a Turk it would undoubtedly be restored. The young man who had found it inquired immediately for the owner, and was told that it probably belonged to the Americans, for such persons had been seen in the neighbourhood. Upon this hint he travelled more than twenty miles to the American palace, and was directed by some of the domestics to my lodgings. I found its contents untouched, and the young man was modestly retiring, when I recollected that although virtue

is declared to be its own reward, yet that so much voluntary trouble required a suitable compensation.

The day is excessively stormy, with strong gales from the north, and several vessels which we had seen yesterday in the Black Sea were now scudding into the Bosphorus under bare poles to secure a harbour. These storms not unfrequently strew the southern shores of the Euxine with numerous wrecks, and the annual loss of lives is said to be very considerable. Our worthy friend, Mr. Goodell, celebrated divine worship at home, and such of the inmates of the palace as felt disposed attended the service. As many did not understand English, Mr. Goodell delivered an impressive discourse in Italian. It is certainly not among the least of the novelties of our situation to hear a Yankee clergyman preaching in Italian upon the banks of the Bosphorus to an audience composed of half a dozen different nations, assembled from various quarters of the globe.

## CHAPTER XXVI.

**Caïks on the Bosphorus—State Barge—Festival at Ibrahim Aga—Schools of Constantinople—Seclusion of the Princes of the Blood Royal—Succession to the Throne—Kitty Gerry—Education of the Prince Abdool—Pavilion of the Sultan—Sultana—Amusements.**

THE day upon which the heir presumptive to the throne is delivered over to his instructors is always celebrated with great festivities and rejoicings. It seems, indeed, proper that an event upon which may depend the future happiness of millions should be accompanied with suitable solemnities. The reigning king has two sons, the eldest of whom is now nearly nine years old, having been born April 20, 1821. His name and title is Abdool Metzib Effendi, and that of his younger brother, Abdool Aziz Effendi. On this day Abdool Metzib is to be given up to his tutors, with the customary solemnities. The plain of Ibrahim Aga, on the Asiatic shore just below Scutari, has been selected as the scene of the three days' festivities, which commence this morning.

At an early hour, almost the whole population of Stamboul and its suburbs were poured forth upon the waters, and the Bosphorus was literally blackened with the numberless caïks employed in transporting passengers across to the Asiatic shore. At a distance they appeared to form a continuous line from Seraglio Point to the opposite shore, and in many places this line covered a space at least a quarter of a mile broad. We are informed that the number of caïks in and about Constantinople is 5000, but from the exhibition this morning, we should be inclined to believe that they greatly exceed that number.

At ten o'clock the sultan and the young prince made their appearance in two separate state barges, which, in beauty of shape and splendour of decoration, far exceeded any thing of the kind we have ever witnessed. They are built on the model of the Turkish caïk, are about 120 feet long, and glitter in every part with burnished gold. Each of them was manned by twenty-four boatmen, selected for their strength and manly forms, which were highly set off by the picturesque costumes I have already described as common to the caïkjees on the Bosphorus. They made half-minute strokes with the greatest regularity, and the simultaneous plunge of so many oars, with the accompanying foam of the waters, formed a wake like that of a steamboat.

It was with much difficulty that we succeeded in forcing our way through the dense crowd of boats along the beach, and we were indebted to the politeness of a Turkish officer to whom we addressed ourselves, for permission to enter the camp. The extensive plain of Ibrahim Aga, as well as the adjoining hills of Kadi Keni and Scutari, were covered with tents for the accommodation of troops, of whom there were 24,000 on the field. They were composed of the imperial guard, and five regiments of the line. The cavalry were chiefly horse artillery and lancers, and were remarkable for the beauty of their horses and the splendour of their equipments. The infantry made a good appearance, and went through several evolutions with remarkable celerity and precision. The crowd was immense, and a gentleman of our party, who has had opportunities of estimating large masses of people, gave it as his opinion that there could not be less than 150,000 persons on the field. Not the least conspicuous among these were the children belonging to the schools of the metropolis, who had been with great propriety summoned to witness the ceremony, and for whom tents had been expressly provided. These were scholars belonging to the *free-schools*, which amount,

as I am informed, to 300 in Constantinople alone. The students in the academies or colleges (medresses) amount to about 5500. Fifty years ago the number of schools registered on the books of the Stamboul effendi, or mayor, amounted to 500, and at the present day is stated to be four times that number. These little urchins formed almost an army themselves, for they exhibited a force amounting to 6000. This was the only occasion I ever had of estimating the school population of Constantinople.

Our inquiries as to the nature of the future education of the Prince Abdool furnished us with meager information. A conspicuous feature in it, we were given to understand, was to make him thoroughly acquainted with the Turkish language and literature, together with a perfect knowledge of Arabic and Persian. To this will be added a knowledge of the French language. The sultan is said to be the most accomplished oriental scholar in his dominions, and although now over forty years old, has recently applied himself to the study of the European languages. All the princes of the blood-royal, are by the singular state policy of the Turkish empire, kept strict prisoners within the walls of the seraglio, until their death or elevation to the throne. It would seem scarcely probable or possible that these princes could be competent, from their secluded manner of living, to handle with skill the reins of government; nor can we well conceive how supreme authority can be moderately or judiciously exercised by a person who steps suddenly from a prison to a throne. Such, however, is the practice of the Turkish empire, originally adopted in order to prevent the contentions which might arise between rival princes of the blood-royal. In consequence of this state regulation, a movement against the sultan is usually followed by the decapitation of his nearest relative; and hence when a revolution takes place, it is not the people who suffer, but the royal line. Although this is directly opposed to the practice of western Europe, and of course is con-



sidered barbarous, yet how much blood and treasure would have been spared if such a state policy had been adopted. We have already seen how near the present royal dynasty was to becoming extinct in the person of the present sultan. To some inquiries touching the succession in case of failure in the present reigning family, we learned to our great astonishment that the nearest heir to the throne, and the validity of whose claim would be acknowledged by the Turks themselves, was an old classmate in Edinburgh.

Among the odd characters assembled in 1818 and 1819 within the gloomy lecture-rooms of that venerable university, from various quarters of the globe, was a queer fish, familiarly known under the name of Kitty. He sported on his cards "Sultan Gerry, Krim Gerry, Kitty Gerry and of Caucasus," and was remarkable for the astounding English in which he clothed his oriental ideas. He was represented to us as having been a Mussulman converted to Christianity, and sent at the expense of the Emperor of Russia to be initiated into the learning of the West. He was a very inoffensive man, with great simplicity of character, and a much more attentive student than many of us who amused ourselves with his peculiarities. It was considered an excellent joke among the profane to invite honest Kitty to tea under the pretence of discussing literary matters. The conversation would sooner or later diverge to religious subjects, and particularly to the comparative morality of the Christian and Mohammedan belief. Some would jestingly espouse the cause of Mohammed, while poor Kitty would work himself into a perfect fever in defending his adopted religion. During this discussion, wine, or rather potent Fairntosh, would be introduced, and Kitty, although by education and habit exceedingly temperate, would partake of the passing cup. As the genial liquid began to exercise its influence, his fervour increased, and a hint that he was as abstemious as a Mussulman would inevitably compel him to toss off another bumper as a pledge of his orthodoxy.

The steadfastness of his faith increased as the steadiness of his gait diminished, and when every thing around him looked double, he would the more vehemently defend the doctrines of the Trinity.

I have since learned that he married a Scotch lassie, much against the wishes of her family, and took her with him to Russia, where he now resides. He is a lineal descendant of the ancient khans of the Crimea, and we were informed by one of the officers of government here, that in default of male issue in the present royal line, he will certainly be called to the Ottoman throne. His immediate predecessor sold the sovereignty of the Crimea to Russia, and he is now a dependant upon its bounty. That government, with their usual long-sighted policy, doubtless reserve him or some of his descendants in order to make a claim upon the Turkish throne, and fill it with one of their own vassals. This, however, unless some unusual calamity should befall the present royal dynasty, is scarcely a probable event; for to judge by the loyal demonstrations of joy exhibited around us this day, a stranger would infer that the great bulk of the people are strongly attached to the reigning family.

The frequent salvoes of artillery, the acclamations which rent the air in responses to the prayer of the grand mufti, delivered at the foot of the throne, the gay assemblage of costumes of every form and hue, and the heartfelt joy which seemed to beam on every countenance, formed a cheerful and animated picture. Here were groups of women seated on the ground, eating, laughing, and delighted with the scenes around them; while in another place were squads of noisy boys, bent on making the most of this privileged day, while their grave-looking tutors seemed almost as gay and light-hearted as their riotous charges. Here we passed long files of gayly-painted and carved arabahs, drawn by oxen, and filled with women of all ages and colours; and then, again, we would almost stumble over some Mussulman

prostrate at his devotions, and regardless of the noise and din around him.

The ceremonial which accompanied the transfer of the young prince into the hands of his instructors was simple, and not devoid of dignity. The sultan was seated on his throne, under a splendid pavilion, which far exceeded our ideas of oriental magnificence. The grand mufti, the chief ulema's, and the professors of the seraglio stood on the right of the throne. On the left were arrayed all the great dignitaries of the empire; and in front were placed the general officers of the army and navy. The young prince was introduced, who, after embracing respectfully the feet of his father, took his seat on a cushion placed between the grand mufti and the sultan. After a short pause, a chapter from the Koran was read, and the grand mufti then pronounced a prayer suitable to the occasion. At every pause the children took up the responses of *Ameen!* which were shouted through the camp, and borne back in echo from the neighbouring hills. When the prayer was concluded, the prince arose, again embraced his father's feet, and after asking permission gracefully made an obeisance to the assembly and withdrew.

Thus terminated the public ceremonial, which was accompanied by a distribution of food to the troops, and to the children of the different schools. Fifteen criminals under sentence of death were also publicly pardoned, in honour of the day. Among the many changes which have taken place in this country of late years, one ancient custom was still preserved, although it savours strongly of its barbaric origin. We allude to the distribution of food by the sultan to his principal officers of state, and which is performed with much pomp and ceremony. A long train of splendidly attired servants bore on their heads massy silver trays, loaded with every variety of food. The viands were covered with cloths of gold and silver tissue, and the procession moved solemnly to the various pavilions, to the music of a full military band.

The seraskier happened to espy our party on the field, and had the kindness, after the ceremony was concluded, and the sultan had retired, to send an officer to invite us within the sacred precincts of the throne. This was the more gratifying as it was a favour granted to no one else on the field. We were thus permitted to examine minutely this specimen of oriental taste and magnificence. The royal pavilion covered a clear area 120 feet long by 40 broad, although the space actually overshadowed by this huge canopy was more considerable. The canopy was supported by fourteen gilded columns forty feet high, and the whole interior was carpeted with the richest and rarest productions of the Persian and Turkish looms. The material composing the pavilion itself was crimson, yellow, and blue damask, tastefully intermixed, and richly worked with gold and silver tissue, while the gracefully arranged festoons of drapery were fringed with massy gold. The throne itself, elevated about five feet from the ground, was constructed of rosewood, lignumvitæ, and mahogany, splendidly polished, and inlaid with ivory and gold. On the back of the royal seat glittered a large sun, composed entirely of solid gold, weighing, as we were informed, twenty-two and a half pounds. A silken screen or barrier, about four feet high, completely enclosed the pavilion, at the distance of one hundred feet, in order to restrain plebeian curiosity. But we feel it impossible to convey by mere words an adequate idea of this royal pavilion, and we were unwilling to excite observation by making a sketch of it on the spot. We had now been gratified with a view of the sultan in all his glory, of his heir, and of the throne itself. The only remaining appanage of royalty was the sultana, or empress-queen; and here also we were gratified, as she drove past us on the field in an English coach and six. It is, however, a matter of acknowledged difficulty to convey at any time an accurate notion of a lady's face; and in this case the difficulty was increased

by the envious veil, which only permitted us to see her darkly-beautiful eyes, and the tip of her royal nose.\* The festivities of the day terminated by rope-dancing and other amusements, and in the evening by an exhibition of fire-works. The festival lasts three days, and during all this time the men, women, and children remain on the field. To judge by the number of women, of all ranks, here, and on other public occasions, one is at a loss to account for the errors into which most travellers have fallen, with respect to the rigid and jealous seclusion in which the Turks are supposed to keep their females. That this is not the case at the present day we feel amply prepared to prove; but, in compliment to the fair subject, we shall reserve our remarks for a separate chapter.

\* A few days subsequent to this we were informed, upon what we considered good authority, that there is no such being in the Ottoman empire as a sultana, or empress, unless it be the mother of the reigning sultan. Our admiration and gaping wonder were therefore misplaced. The lady in question was, in all probability, the mother of the heir to the throne, but has no rank nor title until her son assumes the royal sceptre. She then becomes the validay sultana, or empress-mother, and always addresses her son by the endearing epithets of "My lion," or "My tiger." Such, at least, are the titles prescribed by usage, and are equivalent to the "Well-beloved cousin" adopted among the royal race of Europe.

## CHAPTER XXVII.

Considerations upon the Condition of Females in Turkey—Their Souls—Yashmaks—Harem and Salamlik—Causes of this separation—Amusements of the Women—Personal Appearance—Particulars in which they differ from the Europeans.

IF the uniform weight of evidence on any given subject is to be depended upon, we fear that the souls of the Turkish women are in a bad way. It is gravely stated, and repeated by every traveller in this country, that the Turks firmly believe their females to have no souls. We once asked a sly old Mussulman the opinion of his countrymen on this subject, and the only reply was a contemptuous sneer at our gullibility; but when he was assured that such stories were printed all over Europe, he took the liberty of indulging in a most undignified fit of laughter. Nothing indeed can be more explicit than the language used in their religious code in reference to the souls of women. In the third chapter of the Koran it is said, "The Lord sayeth, I will not suffer the work of him among you who worketh good to be lost, whether he be male or female; the one of you is from the other." In chapter 13 we have, "The reward of these shall be paradise, whether he be male or female we shall surely raise him to a happy life." In chapter 16, "Whoso worketh good, whether male or female, and is a true believer, they shall enter paradise." In chapter 33 we have even a still more positive declaration: "Verily the Moslems of either sex, and the devout women, and the women of veracity, and the patient and the humble women, and the almsgivers of either sex, and the women who fast, and the chaste women, and those of either sex who re-

member God frequently, for them has God prepared forgiveness and a great reward." Many other texts might be quoted in confirmation of the strong religious belief on this subject, but we imagine that the above are amply sufficient. In reference to this matter, there is an amusing story related of Mohammed, which is equally creditable to his ingenuity and gallantry. Some of the Arabian commentators, upon the faith of an obscure passage in the 56th chapter, relate that an aged woman once begged Mohammed to intercede with the Deity to admit her into paradise. He replied abruptly that no old woman could be admitted; but perceiving that the poor body was much distressed, added, very gallantly, if not apostolically, that God would make her young again. This reminds one of the courteous Frenchman, who, in reply to the question why women were not admitted into the Chamber of Deputies, said, that to be a member it was requisite to be forty years old, and it was impossible to suppose that any lady could reach that unseemly age.

Equally absurd with this general opinion as to the souls of the fair Moslems is the idea entertained with respect to their bodies. But this is a more excusable error, inasmuch as various circumstances in the manners of the Turks would lead one to infer that the women were kept in a constant state of rigid and jealous seclusion. In all oriental countries, women, in consequence of their deficient education and the multiplicity of their household duties, form no part of general society, but that they are considered as important help-mates is manifest from the Turkish proverb—"A wife causes the ruin or the prosperity of a house."

The general use of veils in the East is also set down to the score of the husband's jealousy, although it would be quite as easy to attribute it to the modesty of the women themselves. It would not perhaps be a difficult matter to prove that in Asia, the cradle of the human race, both men

and women used at first the same style of dress, but that the necessity for preserving the complexion from the effects of a burning sun, or from the chilling blasts of winter, soon suggested a veil as a protection, and the desire of pleasing supplied other distinctive marks. In the most ancient history extant, we learn that the veil was the greatest mark of distinction between the Hebrew male and female dress; and in the East it is almost the case at the present day. In the Biblical Archeology of Jahn we find enumerated six different kinds of veils:

1. The *radeed*, or hood. Songs v. 7. Isa. iii. 23.
2. The *tzamah*; covering the breast, neck, and chin, to the nose. Songs iv. 1, 3, 6, 7. Isa. xlvii. 2.
3. The *riallah*, or muffler. Isa. iii. 19.
4. The *mamafah*; covering the whole body. Isa. iii. 22. Ruth iii. 15.
5. The *tzahif*, or double veil. Gen. xxxviii. 14.
6. The *shebiseem*, or caul, a thin, gauze-like fabric.

Among this assortment of millinery it is not difficult to detect, by the description alone, to say nothing of the similarity of name, the prototype of that particular species of veil now worn by the Turkish women under the name of *yashmak*. This consists of a piece of white muslin, covering the breast, and rising up over the mouth, and also covering the forehead. In the southern provinces of Asiatic Turkey, the piece over the forehead is black and shades the eyes, and produces a very displeasing effect. The general impression produced by these white *yashmaks*, although confessedly very trying to the complexion, is somewhat pleasing, and they remind one of the nuns of western Europe.

The reluctance of the Turks to converse about women has also been alleged as a proof of their jealousy. The whole amount of this is, that they consider it an improper topic, and that to introduce any conversation on this subject is an undoubted evidence of ill-breeding. We have had



opportunities of hearing the remarks of even young Turks on topics allied to this, and they would form an amusing contrast with the ordinary conversation of our well-educated young men ; we need scarcely add that the advantage on the score of morality, to say nothing of propriety, is much in favour of the Moslem. When we therefore state that the Turks consider it as a mark of ill-breeding to speak of each other's wives, we offer at once an apology and an explanation of their conduct. It is a matter of conventional opinion upon which even Christendom is divided. A well-bred Frenchman conceives that he pays you a compliment when he assures you that your wife is an angel ; and a German will kindly inform you that your wife has a good heart ; while an American would feel offended by a public reference either to the accomplishments or to the excellences of his spouse.

The internal arrangement or distribution of a Turkish household has also furnished a fruitful text for those who declaim about Turkish jealousy. Every house is in fact divided into two parts,—the *harem*, or women's apartment, and the *salamlik*, or part allotted to the men. This distribution is not exclusively Turkish, nor even exclusively oriental, for the Greeks have a similar arrangement in their *Andronitis* and *Gyneconitis*. This division is of great antiquity, for an allusion is made to it in the sixth book of the *Iliad*. In 1828, the excavations at Herculaneum exposed one of the most splendid private houses of the ancients ever beheld by modern eyes. In this a separate part of the mansion was allotted to females, and was exclusively occupied by them.

We have been in several Turkish houses now occupied by Franks, where this arrangement can be conveniently studied. A long room communicating with several others is the ordinary living apartment of the women and female domestics. In this room all the household operations, such as sewing, spinning, weaving, &c., are performed,

and here, too, they take their meals. Around this room is a range of closets or cupboards three feet high, which contain domestic utensils, clothes, and other articles appertaining to a household. Upon the top of these closets they sleep at night, and, similar to the men, with their clothes on. This unseemly practice they have in common with the Greeks, who do not, however, correct it like the Turks by frequent ablutions, and who are said, at least the lower classes, to wear out a suit of clothes before it leaves their backs. The apartments for the husband and the male domestics offer nothing peculiar, except that they are distinct from those of the women; in some houses the communication is completely cut off except by a single door, of which the husband and wife have each a key. In others the food prepared by the women is conveyed into the salamlık by means of a revolving cupboard, similar to the contrivances used in the convents of Europe. The entrance from the street is equally distinct, and it is needless to add that the women have free ingress and egress. It is probable that the women are quite as much satisfied with this arrangement as the men; and if the truth could be ascertained, it would no doubt be discovered that it originated with the women themselves. They must certainly be rid of those thousand petty annoyances which, we are assured on competent authority, even the best of husbands are but too apt to create in an orderly family. For example, they are free from the nuisance of tobacco-smoke, of entertaining husband's "dear five hundred friends," of being compelled to listen to long-winded prosy conversations on trade or politics, and they are scarcely responsible for husband's appearance when he goes abroad. As they take their meals separately, there can be no sour looks or tart remarks should the beef be underdone, or the soup be parboiled; and as the marketing is done by the women, the poor man must perforce receive thankfully whatever is placed before him, and swallow it without grumbling. We think

that we have noticed in our own country an attempt of the men to copy at least a part of the Turkish system, by having a room exclusively to themselves, which they endeavour to defend against the brush of the whitewasher and the broom of the maid. Our good wives, in setting their faces against such pretensions, act, as we think, unwisely ; they should, as a matter of interest to themselves, rather encourage it, and when the good man meekly petitions for one room give him two, but upon the express condition that there only he must receive his company and entertain his friends.

Marriage is highly honoured among the Osmanlis, and a widow almost invariably marries again. Indeed, so far is this opinion of the honourable estate of matrimony carried, that old maids are considered by the more orthodox as living in perpetual transgression of the law. Boys are considered of age at twelve, and girls at nine, when marriages may be legally contracted. Although by law a man may have four wives, yet few are willing or able to avail themselves of this doubtful privilege ; and so strong is the sentiment against it, that a minister of Abdool Hamid I., who had four wives, was openly satirized by the Turks as a luxurious voluptuary. But aside from this, the expense of the dowry and of maintenance, domestic broils, and the scruples of parents to give a daughter to a man already married, operate as so many discouragements against a plurality of wives. It is, indeed, often the case, that when a man marries he enters into a solemn contract with the parents not to contract a second marriage during the lifetime of the first wife. Marriage is considered as a civil contract, and is performed by the imaun at the house of the groom, the bride being present only by proxy. To give additional sanctity, however, to the contract, it is not unusual for both to visit the nearest mosque accompanied by their relatives, where certain formalities are performed. Presents are of course exchanged beforehand, and a certain time is allowed to the future husband to make arrangements

for the dowry to be settled on his spouse. Weddings usually last four days, and this time is consumed in frolicking and feasting. They usually commence on Monday, so as not to interfere with their Sabbath, which, as is well known, occurs on Friday.

Every person who has been in Turkey, and is not afraid of speaking out his real sentiments, instead of timidly acquiescing in the loose reports of ignorant or prejudiced travellers who have preceded him, will agree with us when we state that women in Turkey actually enjoy more liberty than in the other countries of Europe or in America. We do not speak of the higher classes, for we know nothing about them, although our opportunities have been equal to those of most of our predecessors, and in many cases superior. We allude to the middling classes, by which alone every country is to be judged, if judged fairly or correctly. No stronger proof of the liberty they enjoy is necessary than the numerous parties of ladies which one meets with in the environs of Constantinople, which excursions, from their frequency, appear to form almost the sole business of their lives. It is in fact a pleasant way of passing time, and resembles our own practices, except that it differs in its details. Instead of a formal card from Mrs. White to Mrs. Green and the Misses Green, the Turkish lady sends her servant to a friend, and asks her company to a ride out to Belgrade, or to an excursion on the Bosphorus. Instead of being bored to death like Mrs. White, who hopes half her dear friends will stay away, and, between the grumbling of husband and remissness of servants, is in a feverish flutter for a week or fortnight, the Turkish lady manages the business in a different manner. The fair Fatimah orders provisions to be put up for a day's excursion, and leaving enough for her complaisant husband, steps into her caik and calls upon her friend the Lady Zaylilah. From thence the party proceed up the Golden Horn, or, breasting the Bosphorus, select

some lovely valley bordering upon that "ocean stream." Here the friends spend the day surrounded by their household, and continuing their customary avocations, while the young people are sporting under the shade of the lofty trees, and the party return home in the evening in high spirits, and with their health improved by exercise in the open air. It may be doubted whether our young women are equally benefited by spending an evening in a heated and crowded room, and vitiated atmosphere; but we fear the comparison may be thought Gothic.

In Constantinople, and the same may be said of all Turkey, the women occupy the markets, fill the streets, and barricade the bazars. Availing themselves of the general respect paid to their sex, they elbow their way through a crowd, regardless of whom they may derange in their way; and the domestics do not even scruple to act upon the principle of "peaceably if we can, forcibly if we must." It has more than once been our lot, in a crowded bazar, to receive a substantial punch in the side, and, upon turning round, discover that the uncourteous salutation proceeded from the fair hand of some Turkish servant-woman, whose path we had unconsciously impeded. They never address a stranger, or even reply to a casual observation. In perambulating the bazars with two American children, I have been, however, frequently accosted by Turkish women, and their inquiries and observations were made with the most perfect freedom and simplicity. These facts are mentioned to show the unrestrained liberty enjoyed by the Turkish women; and we are assured by persons, whose long residence and perfect familiarity with many Turkish families here entitle them to full credit, that the class of discreet and sensible husbands maliciously termed hen-pecked is as numerous in Turkey as in any other part of the globe.\*

\* Mr. Arundel, in his pleasing tour to the Seven Churches, relates an anecdote which, although unimportant in itself, illustrates our observations.

But while we thus expose the misrepresentations concerning the imprisonment and degraded condition of the women, it is equally due to candour and truth to state, that we cannot subscribe to the great personal beauty which is commonly attributed to them. It is true that we see them partially disguised and enveloped in a dress which, according to our ideas of taste, would convert a Venus into a downright dowdy. Their yashmaks conceal their foreheads and mouths, but, among the many revolutions going on, it may be reasonably expected that this will ere long disappear. Already is it becoming curtailed in its extent, more particularly with the young and good-looking, and we have frequently noticed it dropped altogether. Their eyes are usually dark, their complexion fair, and often with a tinge of sallowness, and a want of animation, or rather a listless languid air, appears to be uniform. Several Americans here have fancied a strong resemblance between them and our own dear countrywomen; but after what has been said respecting them, it might be indiscreet to offer an opinion. We may, however, be permitted to mention a few particulars in which the Turkish women differ from our own. The out-door headdress of all classes consists of a white handkerchief, covering the head and part of the face; hence they are totally free from all anxiety about the choice of a spring or fall bonnet. A plain cloth cloak, or feridjee, covers the whole person, and of course leaves no scope for extravagance in silk or merino dresses, to be rejected at the end of the month as vulgar, because their dear friends have already the same pattern. Instead of gloves and stockings, they stain their fingers and toes with khennah, and of course no inconsiderable item of expense

He had engaged a Turk to conduct him to a neighbouring town. The wife followed, and alternately begged, scolded, and entreated, and at last succeeded in persuading her husband to turn back. When remonstrated with, she alleged as a reason that her husband was unwell, and that she could not think of permitting him to go out in such weather.

is avoided. They give no grand entertainments, where ostentation and display are substituted for friendly intercourse, and, as theatres, balls, and routs are alike unknown, they usually contrive to reach a healthy old age.

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## CHAPTER XXVIII.

Russian Corvette—Comparison between Russian and Greek Sailors—Management of Turkish Navy—Yara Vatan Serai—Been Beer Direk—Fountains—Inscriptions on them—Slave-market—Romances on this Subject—Decree of Freedom—Condition of Slaves in Turkey. ~

A RUSSIAN corvette-built ship came in to-day from the Black Sea. She was originally constructed by order and for the Russian government; but when peace took place she was, with eight others, left upon the constructor's hands. This at least was the story, improbable as it may appear, in circulation at Pera. She is now brought in here for sale, but her name, the Navarino, is scarcely a recommendation to the Turks. If not sold here, she will proceed to Alexandria. We had the curiosity to pay her a visit. She is a rough-built vessel, of 700 tons, and can carry 26 heavy guns, is deeply laden with naval stores, and will doubtless find a good market at Alexandria, where the unusual activity in the Egyptian marine begins to cause some uneasiness to the government here. The commander of this corvette was a Greek, and, if we remember right, an officer in the Russian service. His crew were all Greeks, and upon expressing surprise at this circumstance, he assured me that the Russians were the worst sailors in the world, and that, with his twenty-five Greeks, he was confident that he could handle his vessel better than with one hundred Russians. We were aware that the Russian navy

was horribly mismanaged, but had always supposed that the chief difficulty lay in the officers ; and, on the other hand, we have never seen any thing to give us a very exalted opinion of the Greek sailor. In one particular, we should suppose the Russian far superior to the Greek. They are more subordinate, and this quality far outweighs the bodily activity attributed to the Greek. We were informed by a foreigner, that in a conversation with the admiral of the Turkish navy, he was asked why it happened that Russia, with her immense revenues and naval resources, had been able to effect so little at sea. It was replied, that whenever a Russian ship was fitted out, she was scarcely a week absent when some previously-concerted accident was made the pretext for her return, and the officers and crew pilfered and sold every thing that could be taken out of her. "Mashallah!" exclaimed the admiral ; "why, they behave exactly as we do." Any comment upon this is unnecessary ; but one is disposed to wonder how, under such mismanagement and peculation, a fleet could ever be fitted out by either party. The Turks did, nevertheless, contrive to capture one Russian frigate in the Black Sea during the last war.

*Wednesday.* During an early stroll through the streets of Constantinople this morning, we were surprised to find that the bazars were still closed, and would not be open until 7 o'clock. An Armenian informed us, that the Turks, although early risers, were still occupied with their devotions. Business before every thing else is but too often a favourite phrase with merchants ; but devotion before business appears to be the rule among the Turks. We had set out early, with a full determination to find the *yaray patan serai*, or subterranean palace, an immense reservoir, which was constructed to furnish the capital with water in case of a long drought or a siege. In the time of Gyllius, he relates that he navigated it in an open boat, and was surprised to find that the people living immediately over it



were not aware of its existence. According to Greek hyperbole, this vast reservoir entirely swallowed up the rivers Cydaris and Barbyzes,—by which they merely meant to convey the simple idea that it was supplied with water from these two pigmy brooks. After many fruitless inquiries, we at last found the spot; but the family occupying the house over the principal entrance were in the country on a holyday excursion, and we never afterward had an opportunity of repeating our visit. The inquisitive traveller may, however, find it in a street running north from the Atmeidan, and we were informed that it still supplied the establishments connected with the mosque of St. Sophia.

The *been beer direk*, or the thousand and one columns, designates another reservoir, which was formerly filled with water. We descended into it by a long flight of rickety wooden steps to the depth of forty feet, when we found ourselves in a dark and gloomy cavern. It is said to have been the work of Philoxenus, and to have been constructed during the reign of the Constantines. There are openings at various places in the upper part of the vault, which at present admit light, but through which, in ancient times, the water was in all probability drawn from the reservoir. The earthen floor is very irregular, and in many places, where rubbish has been thrown in from above, the bases of the columns are concealed, and this has given rise to the idea that there are double rows of columns, one tier of which is now supposed to be entirely covered up. We should think, from a rough estimate made on the spot, that this cavern contained an area of 40,000 square feet, and is supported by two hundred columns. Instead of the “pallid wretches whose forbidding countenances were illumined by the glare of torches,” we found simply a number of civil and industrious Jews, engaged in the delicate and tedious operation of spinning silk by the dim light which entered from above.

Upon emerging from this cave a Turkish lad offered

to show us *beer shay goozell*, or something very pretty in the neighbourhood. In the hope that we might accidentally stumble upon some undescribed curiosity, we followed implicitly our little guide to what appeared to be the ruins of an extensive palace. Descending a flight of stone steps, we were conducted through a series of gloomy vaults, well adapted for the scene of a bloody romance. From the massy strength and seclusion of these dungeons, they may be supposed to have been, in ancient days, used as prisons for the miserable victims of state policy; but a more sober fancy would suggest that these subterranean vaults, now filled with stalactites, may have once served as public granaries. From this we were conducted to another reservoir, resembling the *been beer direk*, but by no means so extensive. It was quite as deep, but did not contain more than forty pillars, which in their form bore a rude resemblance to Corinthian columns. Like the *been beer direk*, it was occupied by silk spinners, for which its equable temperature, and exemption from currents of air, rendered it peculiarly appropriate. Besides these, there are in various parts of the city other reservoirs, whose tops have fallen in, and are now cultivated as gardens. Constantinople is at present so well supplied with water, that these public reservoirs have become in a great measure useless, but still we think that they should not have been abandoned. In case of a siege, under the present system of supply, the capital could not hold out a week, if the enemy should cut off its sources of water.

The public fountains in the capital and suburbs invariably elicit the admiration of the traveller. They are usually in the Persian style, and often highly decorated. The most magnificent is that near Tophanna, or the military arsenal, just above Galata. It is covered with poetical distichs, in Turkish, Arabic, and Persian, of which the following may serve as examples:—

"This celestial fountain, which is established in a place worthy of it, distributes water in every direction, through a thousand and a thousand channels."

"Its purity is an evidence of its salubrity, and its limpidity is a pledge of its brilliant reputation."

"As long as the drops of rain fall into its reservoirs, so long shall a happy people laud its virtues to the skies."

"May Divine justice render happy the author of this beneficent work ; may his memory be immortal."

"This delicious fountain, described by Haifi, is, in the presence of God, a meritorious act of piety of the Sultan Mahmoud, 1145." (1732.)

Not far from the Burnt Column is the slave bazar, which, depending upon the information of books of travels, we have hitherto frequently passed as a place forbidden to strangers. Having been, however, assured to the contrary, we determined this morning to pay it a visit. It consists of a quadrangular building, with an open court in the centre about 200 feet square. Around this square are raised platforms, three feet high, upon which the slaves are exposed for sale. Behind these are rooms with latticed windows, where the white women are kept until sold. In the court there were nearly a hundred black women, whose scarred cheeks and striped dresses announced them to be from Darfur and Sennaar. They endeavoured, by gestures and a strange gibberish, accompanied with shouts of laughter, to attract our attention, and induce us to become their purchasers. Strange as the fact may appear to many of our countrymen, who regard, very justly, slavery as a great moral and political evil, these poor beings, instead of shuddering at the approach of a purchaser, actually look forward to that event with undisguised pleasure. We have had frequent opportunities of observing the same feeling in the crowded slave-markets of South America. Travellers, who are prone to draw upon their fancy for their facts, have indulged in strange flights of imagination on this subject. A modern English Mendez Pinto\* has

\* Madden.

particularly distinguished himself by his romantic pictures of ideal wo in the slave bazar of Constantinople. The white female slaves are chiefly from Circassia and Georgia, and, until within the last two years, from the Morea. By a decree of the Porte in 1830, the trade in Greek slaves was formally abolished; and all Christian slaves who had become so in consequence of the Greek revolt were ordered to be set at liberty, and to be furnished with money to return home. This decree is so remarkable for its freedom from the cant of philanthropy, and for the naïveté with which it exposes the reasons why the measure has been adopted, that for a state document it may be regarded as a curiosity. It is addressed to all the judges, naïbs, governors, muselims, ayans, &c. of all towns and villages. The following is a translation of this curious decree: "When seditious subjects revolted, and declared themselves rebels against their sovereign lord and benefactor, the chief of the Sublime Ottoman Porte, a sentence, in accordance with the sacred law, was issued by the mufti against the rebels, so that those who persevered in their treason, and in their insolent sedition, should be punished. The Turkish army which marched against them punished and chastised them as long as they persisted in their rebellion, and their wives and children were made prisoners, and reduced to slavery. But, always magnificent and merciful to those who demand pardon and protection, our sovereign, although much irritated, is disposed, from feelings of commiseration, to grant their pardon, in order to secure their tranquillity and restore them to their firesides. Therefore, considering that among the slaves there are some who, after having been purchased and sold, have been disposed to receive the lights of Mohammed, and have had the happiness to be admitted into the true faith; that others have remained in the Christian belief, and have expressed a desire to return home, and, by their continual attempts to escape, can be of no utility to their masters: considering,

moreover, that now peace and order reign under the protecting shadow of his imperial majesty, who tolerates no fraud nor violence,—the said slaves, who have served a long time, looking continually towards their homes, have remained steadfast in their faith, and are only kept in slavery by force; that if they gained their freedom, and were sent home, the empire will gain in population, and their masters, who freed them, will have enduring claims upon their gratitude. *Therefore*, you will take care to cause to be published, and to explain the present decree, and see that it is executed. That is to say, you will cause to be freed all the male and female slaves who have not embraced the Mohammedan religion. In order to do so, you will cause to appear before you all the slaves and their masters, and give them to understand that they do themselves little credit, and deprive themselves of public esteem, by compelling slaves who refuse to renounce their faith to serve them by force. You will observe, especially, that this decree does not extend to those who have embraced Islamism; watch carefully that these do not escape, and punish them according to law if they make the attempt.

“As to those who have remained Christians, you will cause them to be freed; you will furnish them with the money necessary to return to their homes; and you will cause to be transmitted to the Porte a list of all who have been liberated by this present decree.”

The chief supply of male and female white slaves has hitherto been from Georgia and Circassia, where they were sold by their parents or relatives. The condition of these nominal slaves is in point of fact rather enviable than otherwise, for the females become the respected heads of families, and the males are carefully educated and trained to occupy the most important stations in the empire. It is a curious fact, to which we have already adverted, that it is from this class that we see selected to fill some of the most elevated stations in the realm, persons who in other countries would

be, from the circumstance of their origin, necessarily excluded from any office whatsoever. From whatever cause this singular practice may have originated, there can be little doubt that its direct tendency has been to free the country from the shackles of an hereditary aristocracy, independent of the equalizing effect of its religious code. Whether it may not be more than counterbalanced by the absolute authority vested in the sultan, which is unrestrained by a proud and formidable nobility, is a question which with our ideas of government we must frankly answer in the affirmative.

By the late treaty with Turkey this traffic was formally abolished, on the plea of humanity ; but its inevitable effect has been to annoy the Turks exceedingly. It does not appear, however, to be acted upon, or rather, we should say, the business has changed hands. In August last a Russian vessel arrived here with seventy slaves from Georgia. They were all immediately purchased up at prices varying from three to eight hundred dollars apiece. Sir John Chardin, who was in Mingrelia in 1672, and witnessed this slave-trade in operation, thus speaks of it : "Crowds of women and children, half-naked, or covered with rags and filth, but resplendent with beauty, were hoisted on board, where their wretched apparel was exchanged for clean, neat garments, and where, perhaps for the first time in their lives, they tasted bread." Should this treaty be rigidly enforced, we are told that the reigning Ottoman dynasty would finally be extinguished ; for as the sultan, by the laws of the empire, cannot marry one of his own subjects, he is compelled to select a wife from Circassia or Georgia. Perhaps, indeed, some of the royal families of Europe might compassionate his case, and kindly offer one or two of their marriageable daughters, in order to perpetuate the royal line. It may be doubted, however, whether such a proposition would be acceded to by his Ottoman majesty, as it would in the eyes of his subjects be

connected with what they consider as the taint of Christianity. The annals of the Ottoman empire, however, furnish numerous examples of its sovereigns intermarrying with Christian princesses. Orchan was married to the daughter of a Grecian prince, and afterward to Theodora, daughter of the Emperor Cantacuzene. Murad I. married a daughter of Emanuel II. Bajazet I. was married to Mary Princess of Servia. Since Ibrahim I. none have married, but have formed, as D'Ohsson (from whom I borrow these details) quaintly expresses it, unions de conscience.

We have already alluded to the common but unfounded report, that the mother of the present reigning monarch was a European. Some of the Irish residents here are positive that she must have been from the Green Isle, and sportively contend that the title of the sultan himself is an argument in their favour; for what is Padir Shah but a Turkish corruption of Paddy Shaw?

The black male and female slaves, who may be purchased for eighty or a hundred dollars, are employed as servants, and there is no doubt that their condition is infinitely ameliorated by being removed from their own country. There, they were slaves in the worst sense of the word, with barely sufficient to sustain life, under the constant lash of the tax-gatherer or the spoliations of the marauder. Here, as soon as purchased, they become to all intents members of the family, partake of the same fare and at the same table, nurse the children, accompany the family in all their holyday excursions, are consulted and give their opinion freely upon all family matters, and in fact are considered more in the light of humble friends than as purchased slaves. If their master is exiled or disgraced, they follow his fortunes; and indeed from their supposed community of interest and feeling, it has hitherto not been unusual to include them in the same sentence of banishment. They repay the kindness with which they are treated with the

warmest affection and gratitude, and we know of no country in the world where the relative situation of master and slave is accompanied with fewer galling conditions on the part of the latter than in Turkey.

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## CHAPTER XXIX.

*Drogoman of the Porte—Salaries of Officers—Drogomen of Foreign Powers—Bickerings between them and the Frank Residents—Greek School—Malta Press—Anecdote of the Serraiskier—Hail-storm—Presents to the Turkish Government.*

FURNISHED with an introduction, we called upon the drogoman of the Porte, and found him in a low room on the ground-floor, without a single article of furniture except the divan. His office is held in a large public building near the great gate of the seraglio, from whence it has probably derived its name. It is here that the councils of ministers (commonly called the divan) are held, and the reis effendi, or minister of foreign affairs, has also his office in this building. Hence it is the place where the ambassadors of foreign powers transact their business, and the term Porte has in consequence become synonymous with the government of the country, in the same way that we speak of the closet or cabinet of St. James's or the Thuilleries. The word Porte is also expressive of an oriental metaphor, meaning strength, durability, and majesty, and hence we have the grandiloquent phrase "The Sublime Porte." The drogoman of the Porte is one of the most important and confidential officers of the government. Through him all foreign affairs are transacted with the reis effendi, and the importance of having a man of capacity and integrity in such a station is sufficiently obvious. It was formerly held



by the Greeks of the Fanar, and was the usual stepping-stone to the principalities of Moldavia and Wallachia. As we cast our eyes round the low, dark room, we felt assured that we stood in the identical apartment described by the author of Anastasius as the office of Prince Mavroyeni.

The present incumbent is a native Turk, a son-in-law of the principal of the College of Engineers. He received us with great affability, and while smoking the customary pipe, he entered readily into general conversation. Near the corner of the divan where he sat, and within reach, was a small japan tray, containing a few narrow strips of paper, a couple of reed pens, an inkstand, sand-box, and his official seal. With these simple implements, unaided by clerks, and independent of an organized bureau, he daily transacts all the complicated business connected with his department. He seemed to be well acquainted with the situation, political condition, character, and manners of our country; at least rather better informed than we are on the subject of Turkey. He informed us that not only his, but all the public offices throughout the empire, were open soon after sunrise, and last until sunset, without intermission. They even take their meals, and, if there is no urgent business, indulge in a nap in their office. His salary, we were afterward informed, does not exceed \$1000, and yet with a station scarcely inferior to any in the empire, he is satisfied to labour on, day after day, for a length of time far beyond what a merchant's clerk in our country would condescend to do for twice the amount. During our interview several persons entered on business, which was transacted in a low tone of voice approaching a whisper, and this we learned was the established official etiquette. Several drogomen of the foreign powers also dropped in, apparently to lounge away their time and relieve the ennui of their situation. They have a room in this building allotted for their use, and are expected to be within call in case their

services are required. They are each provided with a pair of yellow shoes, which they slip on over their boots when they visit the drogoman of the Porte, or are summoned by him.

We have elsewhere observed that in consequence of the general ignorance among the Turks of any other language than their own, the ministers of foreign powers are compelled to treat with them through the medium of an interpreter or drogoman, a term corrupted from the Turkish word *tergiman*. They are usually selected from the European families who have resided in the country for several generations, and are perfectly conversant with the Turkish language. In many of these families the office has become almost hereditary, and the consequence has been the establishment of a sort of local nobility. Several have acquired large fortunes by their office, and this, it is said here, could only have been done by betraying the interests of their employers.

As they affect to look down with contempt upon the merchants of Galata, these, in their turn, return the contempt with interest. A common proverb at Constantinople is "Dio mi guardi dai dragomani, io mi guardero dai cani." As there are no laws against defamation, and duelling is not in vogue, this petty warfare is kept up by squibs, mots, pasquinades, and sometimes atrocious libels. The merchants of Galata repeat the distich,—

In Pera sono tre malanni  
Peste, fuoco, dragomani,—

while the drogomen retort by asserting that the merchants of Galata are so ignorant, that when a missionary distributed copies of the New Testament among them, they actually believed that St. Paul's Epistle to the Galatians was addressed to themselves.\* Although among our own ac-

\* This joke is to be found in a very grave history. "Le peuple ignorant et stupide croyoit que l'épître de St. Paul ad Galatas, avoit été adressée aux

quaintances here we have found as much refinement and general information as in any part of Europe, yet it must be confessed that the schoolmaster has not been abroad in Galata. One of these mercantile worthies, although he knew us to be Americans, actually congratulated us upon the fall of Warsaw.

Drogomen are, however, important aids to those powers which have political relations with Turkey. From the peculiarities of the Turkish character it is extremely difficult to treat with them, except through persons thoroughly acquainted with their language, and their manner of transacting business. We have, however, satisfied ourselves that they would be great gainers in their transactions with foreign powers, if their chief officers of state at least were acquainted with any one European language. The transaction of business through the intervention of a third party is always a tedious process; is liable to frequent misconceptions; and the interpreters may consult their own private interest by misrepresenting or by giving a false colouring to what has been said by either party. We are otherwise at a loss how to explain the fact that the drogoman of Russia is now one of the richest individuals of Pera.

There is another disadvantage connected with it which one would suppose to have been long ere this sufficiently obvious. Ambassadors have been termed, and with justice, privileged spies, and the necessity for a large drogomanic retinue of course increases the number of these spies. The Russian diplomatic corps at Pera, for example, including its various drogomen, aspirants, jeunes de langues, counsellors, &c. &c., comprises at the present moment ninety individuals. If these people faithfully attend to the business for which they are paid, the consequences are sufficiently ob-

habitans de ce faubourg."—*Histoire du Bas Empire depuis Constantin jusqu'à la prise de Constantinople en 1453.* Par Jacques Corentin Royou. Tom. iii. Paris, 1803.

vious. The Turkish government can enter into no negotiation, nor mature any public measure, without its becoming public among the diplomatic runners of Pera.

A drogoman is not, however, what his name implies, a mere interpreter. He is, or at least ought to be, the confidential friend and adviser of his minister. Occasions may and often do arise, when the imperious or abrupt demands of the chief are softened in passing through the drogoman, and hasty or inconsiderate expressions are modified and sometimes suppressed. In conducting a negotiation, their personal acquaintance with the individual characters of the chief officers of state, and their knowledge of the "*tempora mollia fandi*," render their services highly important.

It may, however, well be questioned, whether their employment is not attended with more inconvenience than benefit. Ruphy has given a lively picture of the evils connected with this system. "*Ils étoient obligés de livrer leurs personnes et leurs intérêts à la discretion de quelque trucheman renegat dont ils payoient chèrement les services et quelquefois les infidélités—Ils étoient presque toujours trompés dans leurs transactions,*" &c. He advises to abandon the old routine, to study the language, and then, to use the expressive terms of Volney, "*L'industrie s'éveille, les esprits s'électrisent, les idées se repandent, et bientôt par ce contact general s'établit entre l'Asie et l'Europe, une affinité morale, une communication d'usages, de besoins, d'opinions, des mœurs, et enfin des lois.*"

Our minister here, Commodore Porter, has attempted the novel experiment of dispensing with the services of a drogoman, and transacts his business directly in French through the drogoman of the Porte. This is a direct appeal to the candour and good faith of the Turkish government, which cannot fail to make a favourable impression. Of course, this unheard-of innovation has occasioned universal scandal among the diplomatists of Pera, and they pour upon his head the same wrathful and bitter denunciations with which

he was once honoured by an English Quarterly Review. They have indeed reason to be alarmed, for if the example of Commodore Porter should be imitated by the other ambassadors, the brilliant star of drogomanerie will set in darkness, and the world will lose the radiant glories of the petite noblesse of Pera.\*

*Tuesday.* In company with a young Greek who has been educated in one of our eastern colleges, we visited a Greek school of mutual instruction, which has been established by some of his relatives at Yenikeui. It was under an humble shed, but the young Grecians, to the number of sixty, went through their exercises with great spirit and commendable accuracy. Under ordinary circumstances, we do not know of a more interesting spectacle than a well-regulated school. In its little population we behold our successors on the theatre of life, and upon their improvement depends their future character and prospects, and the welfare of unborn generations. These considerations receive additional interest when we survey a school like the present, composed of lads whose parents have just passed through the bloody ordeal of a revolution, and whose ancestors are habitually (we do not say correctly) associated in our minds with the most splendid and glorious passages of history. It was gratifying to perceive that to America this and almost every other great school in Turkey and Greece is indebted for its elementary books of instruction. For such truly benevolent and disinterested labours mere human praise is inadequate, but they are richly repaid in the inestimable benefits they confer on the present and future generations. These books are printed at the American printing-press at Malta, which has been unwearied in its efforts

\* Since the above was written, an American gentleman (Mr. Hodgson), who has devoted much attention to the oriental languages, has been formally appointed drogoman to our embassy. If a drogoman must be employed, this is far preferable than to be compelled to use the services of a foreigner, in every sense of the word.

to do good. According to an official statement, it appears that from the year 1822 to 1829 there were issued from the Malta printing-press 250,000 copies of various religious works, containing more than ten millions of pages in Greek, Italian, and Turkish with Armenian characters. It is a subject of regret that such benevolent efforts should in some instances have taken a wrong direction. Nearly forty thousand dollars have been expended upon works which are as unintelligible to the Greeks or Turks as a Pelham novel would be to "Split Log" or "the Black Hawk." The remedy, however, is easy. Instead of translating the Dairyman's Daughter, and other tracts of a similar character, let the missionaries be instructed to compose, on the spot, short stories filled with local allusions, and naturally arising out of the scenes and manners around them. Let them write something in the style of the Arabian Nights, always however, with a moral end and aim, and they will be read with avidity. Of this Malta printing-press we may further remark, that although the English government permits, or, as it is expressed, "sanctions its operations;" yet it is with the express condition that no tract shall be circulated on the island. It would be natural to suppose that this saving clause originated in the peculiar morality and intelligence of the islanders; but truth compels us to state, that throughout the Levant the name of Maltese is connected with all that is turbulent, fanatical, dishonest, and immoral.

These Lancasterian schools are very popular among the Greeks, and the wealthier classes contribute liberally towards their support. Through the unwearied zeal of our excellent missionary Mr. Goodell the Armenians are commencing schools upon a similar plan; and it is through them that Mr. G. expects ultimately to introduce a more elevated scheme of instruction among the Turks. This it is impossible to effect through the medium of the Greeks; for any thing would be received with distrust from that

quarter. Like the Romans, the modern Turk, however he may be disposed to give them credit for cleverness and ingenuity, heartily despises their character. During our residence in Constantinople, some of the European Catholics had insinuated into the ears of the government that the Americans were busy with a new plan of enlightening the Greeks, and that it would be advisable to watch their proceedings. The head of one of the schools was sent for by the *seraiskier*, and questioned as to his system. The teacher exhibited his books, and gave a detail of his mode of instruction. "I see nothing but what is good in this," said the old *seraiskier*; "but I know of no reason why it should be confined to our Greek subjects. I must visit your school some day, and see how your system works. If it is good, our own people shall have the benefit of it. Leave your books with me, and I shall take care to show them to the grand mufti." Since that period the number of schools has greatly increased in and about Constantinople.

Just before our departure from this school at Yenikeui, the principal gave us a specimen of what Frederick of Prussia was in the habit of terming "praying by battalions." At a given signal all the pupils rose, and repeated after the master a series of prayers, with a rapidity which rendered them totally unintelligible. The levity and indecent haste with which they were uttered gave the whole affair more the appearance of a regular frolic, than an humble and penitent act of devotion. It certainly contrasted very strongly with the lowly and unaffected manner in which the Turks address their inaudible petitions to the Deity.

*Wednesday.* We were all startled from our beds this morning by a noise resembling that which precedes an earthquake. A dense cloud, as black as ink, approached rapidly towards us from the south-west, accompanied with low muttering thunder and a rushing sound which it is impossible to describe, and from that circumstance was rendered the more appalling. In the course of a few minutes hail

began to fall of a size exceeding any thing of the kind we had ever witnessed. The whole surface of the Bosphorus, as far as the eye could reach, presented a singular appearance. The fall of these enormous stones on the smooth surface of the water resembled the operation of millions of little miniature water-spouts. Many of these hailstones which we measured exceeded ten inches in circumference. An apothecary in the neighbourhood weighed several, which were found to be 100 drachms in weight. Their shape was very irregular, and resembled an aggregation of several hailstones; but this could scarcely have been the case, for when examined some time after their fall, a distinct radiated structure was observed, from the center to the circumference, on their smooth melted surface. They were probably formed in a very elevated region. We are not aware that the fact is constant, but as far as our recollection serves, showers of hail of a preternatural size in northern latitudes are usually accompanied by southwest winds.

The ravages of this storm were very severe. From our elevated position we observed the tiled roofs beneath us shattered like glass. Most of the windows in the rear of our palace were protected by shutters; but more than one hundred panes of the largest size and unusually thick were shivered to atoms in the course of a few minutes. The storm did not exceed half a mile in breadth: it passed over Constantinople, Galata, Pera, &c. along the Bosphorus, which it crossed near its outlet into the Euxine. Its course could be distinctly traced by its ravages, for it broke glass, unroofed houses, stripped trees, destroyed poultry, and killed two men in the outskirts of the city.

It is an ancient oriental custom to accompany the transaction of all important business by an interchange of presents. We were favoured yesterday with a sight of the presents which are intended to be presented by our minister to this government as soon as the treaty shall be



ratified: they consisted of snuff-boxes, fans, spy-glasses, watches, coffee-cup stands, and other knickknacks, all glittering with diamonds and precious stones. One snuff-box alone, which was intended for the sultan himself, cost \$10,000; and the total value of all the presents amounted to nearly 40,000 dollars. Previous to the distribution of presents there is a list handed in to the minister containing the names of the several officers of government, from the sultan downwards, with the amount in money which each expects to receive. The presents themselves are merely intended to disguise the transaction; but they have each a market value, and find their way immediately into the jeweller's hands to serve for another occasion. This identical snuff-box, for example, has no doubt passed through the hands of the sultan, the brokers, and the foreign ministers, upon a dozen different occasions.

We have mentioned that when a minister is presented, a treaty ratified, or any other public act performed, an exchange takes place of presents of equal value. The Turkish government had, however, been informed of the seizure and sale of the horses which had been presented to a former American agent, Mr. Rhind, and of course will make no return to our minister. This system of making presents appears to us highly absurd, but it is one of those oriental customs which will probably never be eradicated.

There are two kinds of presents—the *paysch kaysch*, or noble present, and the *bakshish*, or simple douceur. The former is reserved for great occasions between diplomatic personages, while the latter is an ordinary transaction between private individuals. The *bakshish* descends even lower in life, and is equivalent to the “please to remember me, your honour,” of the English servant, or the pecuniary demand of the Italian domestic because you have visited his master. It resembles, too, English taxation, for it pursues you everywhere, and meets you at every turn. If you call upon a Turkish grandee, the servants arrange

themselves at the door as you depart, and, holding out their hands, repeat the magical word "bakshish." If the visits are repeated the bakshish must also be continued, and at the close of the year they call upon you in a body to extract a more liberal bakshish. When you have purchased an article, no matter how small or insignificant, the vender, after receiving his due, repeats, in a wheedling tone, bakshish. You pay a boatman even something over the stipulated price, and he exclaims, in a modest half-query, bakshish? It is the first word which a stranger learns, and it is almost the last which he hears upon quitting Turkey.

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### CHAPTER XXX.

Ratification of the American Treaty—History of the various Attempts made to obtain a Treaty—Circumstances attending the Exchange of Ratifications—Intrigues—Final Success.

THE treaty between Turkey and the United States is at last, after a number of tedious and vexatious delays, finally ratified. These delays have arisen, partly from the procrastinating habits of the Turks, and partly from circumstances foreign to the treaty itself. But, at length, in spite of official sluggishness, drogomanic intrigue, the manœuvres of pretended friends, and of secret foes, it has been brought to a happy conclusion, and destroyed a fertile subject of scandal, innuendoes, hints, and conjectures, which has for the last three months occupied every tongue in Pera.

It has been proverbially a matter of great difficulty for any nation to make a treaty with Turkey. France, in 1542, succeeded in making a treaty of commerce, after a tedious negotiation which lasted ten years. Their great commercial rivals, the English, did not obtain a similar treaty,

although backed by the most potent arguments and considerations, until fifty years afterward, under Elizabeth.

Exaggerated ideas of the value of the Turkish trade early led us, soon after the formation of our government, to attempt to form a commercial alliance with Turkey. Through this we naturally expected to share in the commerce of the Black Sea, which had hitherto been closed against our mercantile enterprise. Various attempts were made at different periods to effect this desirable object, but, through the mismanagement of the agents on some occasions, and the opposition of the commercial powers on all, these efforts were fruitless.

The first attempt was made during the administration of Washington. Mr. King, who was then in London, employed an English gentleman, whose familiarity with the language, and acquaintance with the peculiarities of the Turkish character, seemed to render him a suitable person for this service. He was sent to America with despatches, and to receive further instructions from Washington, but on his passage was captured by a French privateer, and sent to Verdun. We have forgotten his name, but he is still alive, and an English consul on some part of the coast of Syria.

Mr. Offley, our present able and efficient consul at Smyrna, was then furnished with powers to form a treaty, but, as we have been informed, it fell through, chiefly in consequence of the publicity which accompanied his efforts. Mr. Bradish, of New-York, was subsequently authorized to negotiate, but, in spite of the favourable impression which he made upon the Turks by the manliness and urbanity of his character, his efforts were equally fruitless. He failed entirely through the open and avowed hostility of the English ambassador. Another attempt was made through Mr. English, of Boston, but, through some unworthy jealousies on the part of his associates, as we are informed, this was also a failure. Mr. English possessed

peculiar advantages for this undertaking, having resided for several years in the East, but, like Murad the Unlucky, his course through life was a continued series of disappointments and disasters.

The treaty so often made the subject of negotiation was finally brought to a successful issue by Mr. Rhind, of New-York, whose conduct on that occasion deserves great commendation, indeed much more than it was his good fortune to obtain from the public servants of the United States. The private history of this negotiation, the intrigues employed to counteract it, the stratagems resorted to, the plot and counterplot, give it rather the air of a romance than a tale of real life. If Mr. Rhind should ever be induced to publish an account of this negotiation, it will, no doubt, form an amusing chapter in the annals of diplomacy. It is due to the Russian government to state, that its ministers and public agents at Constantinople afforded Mr. Rhind every assistance in their power; and their services, particularly those of Count Orloff, were eminently useful. In this particular, the Russian government stood alone. Mr. Rhind, as we learn from himself, was empowered to act alone, but, from a desire to conciliate various interests, requested that Mr. Offley, and the commander of the Mediterranean squadron, should be associated with him. Mr. Rhind proceeded alone to Constantinople, and there, by dint of perseverance during the long Mohammedan festival, when the English and other ambassadors supposed it to be impossible to transact any business, he brought the affair to a successful issue. The treaty was in the usual form, and contained a secret article, which was totally distinct and separate from the treaty.

It had been the invariable custom of the Ottoman government to consider commercial treaties as privileges which they conferred upon foreign nations, and, as a matter of course, an equivalent in some shape was always expected. It was manifestly impossible to purchase a treaty, and yet

it was a matter anxiously desired by our government. In this dilemma it occurred to our negotiator, that a permission to build ships in America, a subject upon which the Ottoman government had expressed much anxiety, would be considered by them as a full equivalent for the treaty. As this secret article was afterward the subject of much discussion, we give it here entire, suppressing merely the titles and useless repetitions, in order that our readers may form an opinion for themselves.

**"SECRET ARTICLE.**

"The object and motive of this writing is, that as until the present there has existed no treaty or official and diplomatic convention between the Sublime Porte and the United States, we, the undersigned, clothed with the high rank of Riasset (chancellor of state), and authorized by the Sublime Porte to negotiate with our friend the honourable commissioner and plenipotentiary of the United States, Charles Rhind, who has arrived here, to conclude, separately or conjointly with the two other commissioners who are at Smyrna, we have concluded and exchanged between us the articles of the treaty. In consequence of this treaty being concluded, and by reason of the most sincere and perfect friendship which has been established between the two powers, and the reciprocal advantages that must result therefrom, this secret and separate article has been drawn up. In consideration of the abundance and excellence of ship-timber in the United States, and its cheapness, and in testimony of the sincere friendship entertained by the United States towards the Sublime Porte, it is agreed that whenever the Sublime Porte wishes to build any number of two-deckers, frigates, corvettes, or brigs, the foreign minister, Riasset, &c., shall address himself to and concert with the minister of the said power upon the mode of making a contract for such vessels. This contract shall contain all

the conditions relative to price and time, and the mode of delivery at Constantinople, so that vessels may be built after models furnished by the imperial admiralty, as strong and as durable as vessels belonging to the government of the United States, and at no greater expense. And if the Sublime Porte wishes, the commissioners on both sides shall so arrange it that vessels thus built in the United States may take as cargo the timber for building another vessel as large as the vessel transporting it, and at no greater cost than is paid by the United States.

" 14 *Zibidhay*, *Cherissay*, 1245 (7th May, 1830)."

This is the famous secret article, which was subjected to a strict scrutiny in the senate of the United States. On the one hand it was contended that it would be trenching upon our settled policy of strict neutrality, and that it might by possibility embroil us with foreign nations; that it was at variance with frank and open policy to have any secret articles at all; and that in treating with foreign nations we had always acted on the footing of equals, neither asking nor granting a boon. It was also urged that the very article in question was one which we could ill spare, and that all our efforts should be directed to keep it in the country for the use of government.

On the other hand it was maintained, that we were bound to respect the usages of other governments, if we desired to establish an intercourse with them. That with respect to the article in question, our government had shown themselves incompetent to protect that small portion which was public property, and that the stipulation with respect to the price amounted to nothing, inasmuch as it was well known that armed ships could be cheaper and better built in private dockyards. It was also maintained that secret articles were no novelties in our diplomatic intercourse, and that its adoption would lead to the encouragement of an important branch of domestic industry. Finally it was urged, that the

secret article, in point of fact, however important it might be considered by the Turkish government, conceded no privileges which any other foreign nation did not equally possess, which they already enjoyed, and could avail themselves of without any treaty at all.

Such were the arguments used on this occasion; but whatever might have been their weight or importance, they had no influence on the decision of the question. The treaty was ratified, and the secret article rejected by a party vote. There was a circumstance connected with the ratification of this treaty, which it may be necessary to advert to as connected with its diplomatic history. The original treaty was of course written in Turkish, and a French translation of it was made by the drogoman of the United States, a Mr. Navoni, a person whose services in negotiating the treaty had been highly important. In order to give this translation an official authority, it was formally certified to be correct by the drogoman of the Porte, and thus every precaution was taken to avoid mistake or misconception. In the discussion which took place in the senate, this translation, in which elegance had been sacrificed in order to ensure verbal accuracy, was severely handled, and even the Turkish original was declared to be suspiciously obscure. We are at a loss to understand how any person could have ventured to give an opinion on such a subject, for at that time there was not a person in the United States competent to decide the question. A new translation was made out, and it was this translation which the senate ratified.

The administration were desirous of giving the exchange of ratifications an imposing form, in order to conciliate the Turkish government. With this view it was deemed highly important that a minister or envoy should be despatched to Turkey to exchange the ratified treaty; but in this they were thwarted by the opposition. There appears to be in this world a retributive political as well as poetical justice.

The administration of that day had come into power under the popular but delusive clamour of extravagance, waste, and reform, and now they were foiled on an important point with the same formidable but unworthy weapons. An outcry was raised against the extravagance of appointing a minister, when a simple chargé d'affaires would be competent to transact all the business; and doubtless there were numerous disinterested persons who would have willingly undertaken to contract for even a business of much more delicacy for half the money. The opposition carried their point, and a chargé was appointed.

Before his arrival at Constantinople the Turkish government had been apprized of all that had passed; they had also learned, and their oriental pride was not a little disturbed at learning, that the horses presented by the sultan to Mr. Rhind had been seized by the government of the United States, and sold at public auction. Accordingly, one of the first questions agitated was to know why a minister plenipotentiary had not been employed to negotiate so important a matter as a public treaty. It was explained that we were a very economical people, and that in fact we recognised no difference between the two ranks, except on the score of salary; that we were as yet young among nations, and scarcely older, as one of our agents told the seraskier, than the beard of his highness. "I understand all that," said the old man; "but you send a minister to Russia, and even to the petty republics in the southern part of your continent, and why do you insult us by sending an inferior officer?" With regard to the seizure and sale of the horses, although an exceedingly *small* matter on the part of our government, it was explained to their satisfaction that the law on this subject was too imperative to be disregarded; but that no disrespect was intended to the sultan. At this juncture our chargé d'affaires\* Commodore Porter arrived,

\* It is to be regretted that we have no good English word to take the place of this awkward French compound. Is our language too poor for an equiv-



and it required all the good sense and firmness which distinguishes that gallant officer to prevent an open rupture. After several conferences, in which these preliminary matters were fully discussed, the rejection of the secret article was taken up. It required considerable address to explain to the Turkish government why we had refused them privileges which every nation possessed; and they even adduced the example of those vessels which had been built for their rebellious subjects the Greeks. They were informed that the secret article granted them no privileges which they had not already; and that the Ottoman government could cause a fleet to be built, if they wished it, in the United States without any molestation.

At this stage of the negotiation difficulties arose about an exchange of salutes between the American vessel of war in which Commodore Porter had arrived and the Turkish batteries. It has been the leading topic of the day among the Frank residents, and so many different versions have been given of the transaction, that it is almost impossible to state its precise nature. It terminated, however, in a civil intimation from the Turkish authorities, that the departure of the vessel in question would be particularly agreeable, and she accordingly left the harbour. The Turks, who sometimes take odd views of things, cannot be made to conceive why so much importance should be attached to so simple a matter as the burning a few pounds of powder. They give no salutes, nor do they ask for any. If you tell them that the ship is the representative of the country, they ask if the captain represents the king or president and the officers the congress; and when you put

alent term, or too inflexible for a compound epithet! or are we too timid to invent a word which shall designate this functionary? We do not profess to be versed in diplomatic lore, but if a new word should be thought too great an innovation, why not designate him as corresponding secretary, or as resident? Any vernacular term almost is better than to disfigure our already pickled language.

the salute on the footing of a compliment to their sultan, they reply that they do not require such noisy and empty compliments, and that in their own country they might surely be permitted to indulge in their own usages. An effendi, to whom we endeavoured one day to explain the nature of the compliment, said, "I observe that you Christians take off your hats to each other when you meet; is this a compliment or act of courtesy similar to that which you have been endeavouring to explain?" To this we assented. "Pray, then, what would be your opinion of a stranger who walked into your house and addressed you in this manner—I am a stranger to you, sir, but wish to be your friend, and to give you a convincing proof of it I will now take off my hat and salute you; but first I must have your promise that you will take off your own in return, otherwise I shall help myself to a chair, and take no further notice of you?" This was putting the business of salutes in a novel light, and we left our Turkish friend chuckling over the ingenuity of his comparison.

This matter had no sooner been adjusted than another difficulty arose in a different quarter. The drogoman of our mission, Navoni, supposing that as his appointment had emanated equally with that of the *chargé* from the senate, he was not precisely under his orders, refused to accompany the secretary to the Porte, although he expressed his willingness always to wait upon the *chargé*. He was instantly dismissed from the service, and great was the hue and cry that ensued. On the one hand, it was maintained by the friends of the deposed drogoman that this measure was owing to the intrigues of the secretary, who wanted the situation himself, and who had been a candidate previously; but the senate thought proper to confer it upon Navoni as a reward for past services. On the other side, it was stated, and we believe justly, that Navoni had been deeply mortified by the appointment of a simple *chargé* instead of a minister plenipotentiary. His rank and emolu-

ments were of course much diminished by this measure, and he was moreover excessively indignant that our government had refused to date his salary from the commencement of his services. It was accordingly said, that while he had been openly lukewarm in the cause, he had been secretly exerting all his influence to prevent the treaty from being ratified. We give no opinion on these matters, but merely state both sides of the question. We cannot, however, refrain from expressing our firm belief that an American drogoman, if acquainted with the language, is a thousand times to be preferred to a foreigner; and that we hope in future to see this and similar posts filled by our own countrymen, to the exclusion of men who have not nor can have one feeling in common with ourselves.

We are now approaching the denouement of this diplomatic drama. Every thing was ready to sign, seal, and deliver, when suddenly the unfortunate Washington translation was brought forward, and declared by the Turkish authorities to be a false and spurious document. As by the terms of the treaty, if not ratified by a certain day which was near at hand, it would be null and void, and as there was no time to send home for instructions, it was taken for granted that the whole affair would fall through. Much chuckling ensued among the agents of those powers supposed to be most interested in excluding us from the Black Sea; but their triumph was of short duration: Commodore Porter, with that straight-forward decision which renders all the cobweb tissues of diplomacy unavailing, boldly cut through the entangled snare. He is represented to have stated, that as the senate supposed that they had ratified the original Turkish treaty, he was willing to act upon that principle, and would take upon himself the responsibility, if any there was, of signing the original Turkish document instead of the Washington translation. To this there could be no objection; and thus, after a wearisome negotiation

of two months, in which intrigues of all kinds were at work to defeat our minister, the exchange of ratifications has finally taken place, and the Americans here feel as if they were now on an independent footing.

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## CHAPTER XXXI.

Armenian Party—Their Dress—Character and History of the Armenians—Their Occupations—Religious Distinctions among them—Exile of the Catholic Armenians—Circumstance which led to their recall—Part taken by them during the Russian Campaign—Their literary turn.

WE were invited a few evenings since to the house of a friend, where we were informed that several Armenian ladies would be present, and where we should have an opportunity of seeing in perfection the exact costume of the higher classes of Turkish ladies, as they appear upon occasions of ceremony when male visitors are excluded. The Armenians in fact resemble the Turks more than any other people. Like them, they are of oriental origin, and in manner, customs, modes of thinking, and every thing but religion, may be considered as the same people. The Armenian party consisted of four ladies, accompanied by their husbands, brothers, and father. They were, indeed, dressed out in a marvellous manner, and one in particular was so splendidly attired, that albeit unused to describe the fancy work of milliners, we must in compliment to our fair readers attempt at least a sketch of her appearance.

A small scarlet cap with a purple tassel just fitted the top of her head, and round this was gracefully wound an ample turban of silver tissue, with a superb sprig of the most costly diamonds in front. The hair, which was fancifully

intermingled with silk of various hues, hung down in graceful curls over the back and shoulders. A dark velvet jacket with large variegated silken sleeves, embroidered with gold in the most expensive style, fitted tight to the body above, and hung down about her feet in divers strange and fantastical scollops and appendages, which it is utterly impossible to describe. An open under dress of black crape, and beneath this the prettiest Turkish drawers in the world, of gold and silver tissue, with tiny yellow ter-leeks, or boots, completed the most splendid and certainly the most costly dress we ever witnessed. In the dazzling effect produced by this gorgeous and becoming dress, and its connexion with a lovely face, we certainly never should have dreamed of its pecuniary value, had it not been whispered to us that the little gipsy actually wore on her person at that moment articles costing not less than five thousand dollars. The splendid diamond ring on her finger was a present from her husband when they were first betrothed, and the brilliant sprig or plume in her turban was another present when she first unveiled and permitted her husband to see her face. Although the general effect of the dress was magnificent and imposing in a high degree, yet as she entered the room all the Americans present were ready to pronounce her to be one of our own red women of the forest. The comparison was heightened by the similarity in the complexion of the Armenian ladies, which, let it be said in a whisper, borders, if not exactly upon the tawny, at least upon something approaching to it. They entered the room with the ease of well-bred women, and after the usual salutation, which consists in placing the right hand in rapid succession to the breast, mouth, and forehead, they proceeded to take their seats. This, however, is no easy task without much previous practice, owing to their flowing robes and the manner in which it is necessary to dispose of them previous to sitting down. The external slippers or papooshes are first shuffled off, and left on the carpet near

the divan or low sofa with which every house in Turkey is provided. They step upon the divan, and turning round lower themselves down in a way which it would be difficult to describe. It is not exactly cross-legged, although apparently something like it, and is varied occasionally by resting on their knees for a change of posture. One of the young ladies was a near relative of the heroine of M'Farlane's clever novel entitled *The Armenians*. The story is founded upon an event of real life which occurred at Constantinople a few months before our arrival. Veronica Tinghir Oglou was pointed out to us one day from the window of her father's house on the Bosphorus. The young Greek is still alive at Jassy, and, very unhero-like, boasts of the sums of money which he expended in obtaining the fair Veronica.

The Armenians form no inconsiderable part, and by far the most respectable portion of the Christian population of the East. Their closely shorn heads, their immense balloon hats, flowing robes, and solemn air impress a stranger at first sight very disagreeably, but this wears off upon a further acquaintance. Strange as it may appear to those who only know them under their present aspect, which is that of a patient, money-getting, prudent, and timid race, they were formerly a brave and warlike people. Originally inhabiting Armenia, they bravely and desperately contended with the Persians in many a bloody field, but were finally subdued, and their martial propensities so thoroughly quenched, that we hear nothing of them for many succeeding generations, except as a great and flourishing agricultural people. They had so completely abandoned the sword for the ploughshare, that, like our own Quakers, they submitted to insult and injury rather than attempt even a show of resistance. As skilful and patient cultivators of the soil, their labours were blessed by plentiful harvests, which but too often they were not permitted to reap. In the wars between Persia and Turkey their now rich and fertile

country became a convenient granary, from whence the Turkish armies derived their supplies when they made their inroads upon Persia. At length Shah Abbas the Great (as he is designated in history) determined from motives of state policy to lay waste the whole country, and remove the peaceable and unresisting inhabitants into the interior of his own empire. By this decisive but cruel measure he prevented the encampment of Turkish armies on the frontiers of his dominions, at the expense, however, of the lives of thousands of an inoffensive race. Its effects were nevertheless advantageous to his country, for by incorporating such a patient and laborious people among his own subjects, he gave a new spirit of activity and industry, which greatly increased the wealth and resources of his empire.

After this forced emigration, the Armenians could not in their new situation cultivate the soil, and were therefore compelled to substitute commerce for agriculture. In their new pursuits they displayed the same unwearied patience, industry, and prudence, and were soon distinguished as enterprising, intelligent, and upright merchants throughout Europe and Asia. It is difficult, nay almost impossible, as we have already frequently had occasion to mention, to ascertain the actual Armenian population; and hence it can be but mere conjecture which estimates the whole number of Armenians in the Turkish empire at 2,000,000. In Constantinople and its suburbs they are supposed to exceed 120,000, and exercise all the trades and occupations required in a large city. The most wealthy are bankers and brokers. They buy up specie and loan it to the Turks at the rate of twenty and thirty per cent. They allow twelve per cent. on all deposits, and are proudly distinguished for their punctuality and integrity. There are Armenian surgeons, physicians, and apothecaries. They are the chief housebuilders, masons, cabinet-makers; and as farriers and horse-breakers are said to be the best in the country. They also form a large portion of the water-

carriers of the metropolis, transporting this important fluid in large leathern bags upon their shoulders. Indeed they exercise all the mechanic arts, and from their activity, industry, and ingenuity, have been termed the Yankees of the East. This, however, seems hardly applicable, for they are not partial to innovations, are grave, taciturn, docile, and meek under injuries. From their docility, endurance of fatigue, and patience, the Turks with more propriety term them *men camels*.

They are divided into two great sects. One is termed Catholic, and the other heretic, schismatic, or gross Armenians. As the religious belief of these two sects varies only in a few unimportant particulars, they of course hold each other in utter detestation. The schismatic Armenians do not acknowledge the supremacy of the pope; but to compensate for this, observe their fasts with scrupulous severity. On their fast days they avoid with horror the use of meat, fish, butter, milk, and cheese, and during Lent abstain likewise from caviar, oil, oysters, muscles, and clams. Their priests marry, and their patriarch, who resides at Jerusalem, is called Etchmiadzin Aratch Nortuk. The most obnoxious article of their faith is their belief in certain saints and martyrs, who are regarded by the other sect as entirely apocryphal.

The Catholic Armenians are few in number when compared with the schismatics, but by various means had contrived to occupy all the most lucrative offices and situations within their reach. This of course did not fail to increase the rancour already existing between them. It is impossible to say what grounds existed for the charge that the Catholic Armenians were spies in the interest and pay of the European powers. It is, however, well known that many of them were in the employ of foreigners, and enjoyed foreign protection in the capital; and when the Russians occupied Adrianople they were of material service to the enemy. Whatever may have been the foundation for the



charge, it was urged so successfully by the schismatics, aided by the timely application of the omnipotent *bakshish*, that a decree of banishment was issued against them. By this decree, which took place in 1827, ten thousand Catholic Armenians were banished from Constantinople, and ordered to leave within twelve days. A nunnery containing twenty or thirty enthusiasts was ordered to be abolished; and to fill up the cup of their misery to the brim, another measure was adopted which gave a farcical character to the otherwise harsh decree. The daughters of some of the wealthiest Catholics, who had long sighed in utter hopelessness for young heretic Armenians, were ordered to marry them immediately. To the daughters this was of course an agreeable mandate, but it was gall and wormwood to their bigoted parents. They were allowed to sell their moveable property, but their houses were taken possession of by the government. To alleviate in some degree the rigour of their exile, they were permitted to return to the places from whence they originally came, and they accordingly selected Angora, Brusa, and Adrianople, for their future abodes.

At the expiration of two years and a half they were all recalled, chiefly, it is said, through the instrumentality of the French ambassador, Guilleminot, who succeeded in convincing the Turkish government that the decree was equally cruel, impolitic, and unjust. The exertions of this benevolent gentleman were the more praiseworthy, as he had not the sympathy of a coreligionist to induce him to use his influence in their favour. He was a decided Protestant.

At the time of their exile, a commission had been appointed to sell the houses and lands of the Catholic Armenians. They were necessarily sold very low, and in many instances entirely sacrificed. As a necessary accompaniment to the act of justice which produced their recall, they were permitted to take possession of their houses, but were

required to refund to the actual holders the sums for which they had been originally sacrificed. This bore very hard upon the Turkish proprietors, who had in most cases spent large sums of money in decorations and improvements, all of which were of course entirely lost. The Turks, aided, it is said, by the schismatic Armenians, put all manner of impediments in their way, and succeeded in obtaining an order from the Nazir, or superintendant of buildings, that all houses which were painted red should not be restored, as this colour denoted Turkish occupancy.

An amusing scene ensued. All was bustle, hurry, and confusion during the night succeeding the publication of this absurd decree; and on the following morning it was scarcely possible to recognise the same neighbourhood, for it was discovered that whole streets had assumed the same uniform orthodox colour. The order of the Nazir was rescinded, and he was punished for his impertinent presumption. The secretary of the sultan, Mustapha Effendi, gave the first example, by surrendering up without any remuneration several magnificent houses which he had acquired at the public sales, and his example found numerous imitators. The effect of this rapid succession of owners gave rise to several curious occurrences. Among others, we were informed of a Frank physician who had been rewarded for his professional services by the present of a house, valued at five thousand dollars. It was a noble fee, and the physician spent a large sum in various alterations to render it more commodious and worthy of the generous donor. The patient died, but the substantial fee remained; and the worthy doctor was snugly established in his comfortable mansion, waiting patiently for a new subject, when the decree of the sultan was promulgated. The original proprietor appeared, and was received with great courtesy by the doctor, who prescribed immediately for some chronic disease of which the Armenian complained. The sum of \$500 was put into his hands with great for-

mality by the pseudo patient, and he stopped the grateful doctor's thanks immediately, by informing him that this sum was not a fee, but an equivalent for the original purchase-money of his house, which he civilly requested him to evacuate as soon as possible. The matter was not adjusted when we left Constantinople, owing to one of the parties being a European; but the doctor's professional brethren, who of course sympathize deeply on such occasions, said it was the bitterest dose the doctor had ever prescribed or tasted.

We have hinted at the fact of the Armenians having sided with the Russian army when they occupied Adrianople. Upon the withdrawal of that army, conscious how far they had committed themselves, they fled the country by thousands, and taking refuge on the frontiers, abandoned their houses, farms, and property of every description. From mixed motives of policy and humanity the sultan issued a decree shortly after the conclusion of the war, in which we find these remarkable words: "It is my imperial will that you (the governors, &c.) gain their confidence, and induce them to return to their occupations. I wish you to employ all the means in your power to conciliate and gain their good-will." All inquiries into their past conduct were forbidden, and a due tribute of praise was accorded to their valuable qualities as citizens. We were informed that many thousands returned under the protection of this decree, which they found to be an ample safeguard, and very different from those atrocious documents issued by the governments of Spain and Austria under the name of amnesty, by which they inveigle their victims under false pretences within their grasp, and then securely glut their vengeance.

The Armenians are more addicted to letters than the Turks, and we have seen many book-shops in Constantinople groaning under their productions in various departments of literature. Unlike their oriental brethren, they devote much attention to the literature of Europe, and the

accuracy with which they write and speak foreign languages is truly surprising. An Armenian, Joseph Asker Oglou, a ripe and a good scholar, who now acts as second drogoman to the American mission, we may adduce as a remarkable instance of the facility with which our difficult and abnormal pronunciation may be conquered. In the course of a fortnight this gentleman was enabled, with little instruction, to read a chapter from the Bible with the perfect accuracy of a well-educated American. The greater part of their literature, it must be confessed, is wasted upon the barren and unprofitable field of sectarian polemics ; but they have also authors in their own language worthy of any country. D'Ohsson, an Armenian, has written, according to the testimony of competent judges, the very best history and description of the Turkish institutions that has yet appeared.

## CHAPTER XXXII.

Arsenal—Galley-slaves—Dry-docks—The largest Ship in the World—Condition of the Navy—Discipline—Rations—The Capudan Pacha—His History—Foreigners in their Service.

IN pursuance of an invitation from the commandant of the arsenal, we visited this morning the navy-yard, where we were gratified with a sight of the operation of letting in the water to one of the dry-docks containing a ship of the line. The navy-yard, or arsenal, as it is termed here, covers a large extent of ground, commencing just above Galata, and extending along the Golden Horn for nearly a mile and a half. It has a noble range of storehouses and workshops solidly constructed of stone, and contains also ropewalks, a hospital, and a prison. It is under the control of the Reis liman bey, or intendant of the arsenal, and the Tershannay emini, or secretary of the navy, has also his office within the walls. About 500 labourers are usually employed, independent of numerous galley-slaves. These latter are cut-throats of every grade; but the greater number are Albanian desperadoes, a fierce and truculent race, eternally warring with their neighbours, and rarely giving or asking quarter. Their religious ideas are so vague that the Christians consider them as Mohammedans, and the Turks believe them to be "no better than Christians." They certainly possess the bulldog quality of courage in a remarkable degree, which led Byron, in speaking of them, to ask, "Who ever saw their backs?" As they assisted us out of the boat in hopes of a trifling gratuity, we felt a shudder at being in close contact with such ferocious and desperate-

looking ruffians. They were all more or less chained, and some of them seemed to require a muzzle into the bargain.

The various operations of the yard appeared to be conducted with great perseverance, though in that slow and easy manner so characteristic of the Turks, and which will one day prove their ruin. They are about putting up three steam-engines; one for boring guns, another for sawing wood, and a third for rolling copper. These have all lately arrived from England with the requisite engineers.

The two large dry-docks in this yard are built of a coarse limestone in a substantial and workman-like manner. They were constructed about forty years ago under the direction of an able French engineer. The largest is 340 feet long, 80 feet wide, and 30 deep: it is estimated to hold 1400 tons of water. A line of battle ship, the Mahmoud, was in this dock undergoing coppering and repairs; and shortly after our arrival the water was let in in order to get her afloat. This was done by six separate sluices, and the whole time required was nearly an hour. The dock is emptied by horse-power, and this usually requires two days: arrangements have lately been made to procure a steam-engine for this purpose, which will free it in a much shorter space of time.

The Mahmoud is chiefly remarkable for being the largest ship in the world, and is built upon the French model. We were fortunate in visiting her in company with the chief naval constructor of the empire, who pointed out such parts as seemed particularly worthy of notice. Although no sailor, we could not fail to notice some particulars in her construction and arrangement in which she differs from our vessels. The birth and spar-decks had no knees, and the beams which were six feet apart had no carlins between them. Instead of hammocks there were a number of little raised platforms on the birth-deck for the men to lie down

upon, and between these and the sides of the vessel were small lockers to contain the clothes of the men. The Mahmoud, although commenced only a few years ago, yet from carelessness or ignorance in the selection of materials (all sorts of timber in every possible condition having been employed) the dry-rot has already appeared in her, and made no inconsiderable progress.

Through the politeness of the chief constructor we were furnished with the following statement of her dimensions, which was afterward verified by one of our friends in English feet and inches.

	Ft.	In.
Length of the lower gun-deck	223	
Extreme breadth . . . .	61	8
Depth from the base-line . .	30	
Height of birth-deck . . .	7	9
lower deck . . . .	8	
second deck . . . .	7	6
third deck . . . .	7	6
upper deck . . . .	7	
Length of the mainmast . .	139	
Diameter of do. . . . .	4	
Draft forward . . . . .	26	11
aft . . . . .	27	9
Burthen	3934	tons.

She is planked inside and out with soft pine, and the workmanship is very rough, although her model is good. She is pierced for 140 guns, which are to be 42's, 32's, and 18's, with 60 lb. carronades. It is to this vessel that the author of Anastasius alludes when he says, "The capital prepares to launch a three-decker so prodigious that none of our seas will have room enough to work her;" and she is in fact the largest ship in the world, not even excepting our Pennsylvania ship of the line. Immense sums have been idly expended on each of these marine monsters, which can serve

no other purpose than to make a national raree-show.\* After this vessel was afloat, we walked round the arsenal to inspect the various men-of-war then in port : most of them were unworthy of repair, being hogged and rotten ; but from a childish attempt at display, new poops were being built upon these worthless vessels. Such tricks impose upon no one, and only excite laughter. We took the pains to examine each vessel separately, and made out a list, which has unfortunately been mislaid, stating the size, appearance, and condition of each vessel. The following may, however, be relied on as conveying nearly an accurate account of the condition of the Turkish navy up to the year 1833.

In ordinary,

Three line of battle ships, 140 guns.

Three others carrying 100 guns, much hogged.

Eight frigates—four of these old, hogged, and leaky.

Eight corvettes.

Twenty brigs.

Two cutters, and two steamboats.

One of the line of battle ships was built by the celebrated French naval constructor Le Brun ; she is 198 feet in length, with 53 feet beam. Although roughly built, the timber was of a good quality ; she was fastened with iron spikes alone. The frame was oak from the Black Sea and

\* For the purpose of comparison, we give below the dimensions of the ship of the line now building at Philadelphia.

	Feet.
Length between perpendiculars	220
Breadth of beam for tonnage .	57
Depth of hold . . . . .	23
Extreme depth amidships . .	51
Burthen	2306 tons.

With respect to this ship, it has been asserted by skilful naval architects who have examined her lines with much attention, that to render her an efficient sea-vessel, it will merely be found necessary to close her lower ports, or to take off her upper deck.



the Sea of Marmora, the knees abundant and good, the beams of a pine resembling our yellow pine, her ballast was sand. All the vessels were sadly neglected. We took the liberty to suggest a shed or covering for these vessels, but found that their ideas on this subject were at variance with ours. They contended that a shed was an excellent protection if a vessel was kept on the stocks; but after having been launched, its effect was to exclude light and air, and by thus interfering with proper ventilation would only accelerate the progress of the dry-rot. There may be some foundation for these remarks, if the dry-rot has actually taken place before the vessel is thus smothered by a shed.

Among the frigates and corvettes, several were pointed out to us as the remains of the iniquitous affair of Navarino, and one is the only naval trophy of which the Turks can boast: it is a small Russian frigate, captured in the Black Sea during the last war.

The government steamboats naturally attracted our attention. There are two of these, both of English construction: one was originally a Scotch smack, lengthened, and now rebuilding; the other is about 200 tons, of eighty horse power, and, although she has not been in the service more than three years, is very rotten. She cost this government in the rough state \$50,000, and much has been expended in fitting her up for state purposes. Her accommodations consist of a large cabin, lined with mahogany, and fitted with six berths near the centre of the vessel. In the after-part are two state-rooms for the captain, and a small but superb cabin for the use of the sultan, floored with a Wilton carpet, two beds covered with the most costly silk and satin, divan, marble water-closets à la Turquie, &c. &c. She is commanded by a clever Scotchman, Captain Kellie, who is in the Turkish service, and has adopted the Turkish fez, mustachios, and petticoat trousers. The engines of both vessels are very old, and are interest-

ing specimens of the infancy of the art. The utmost speed of these vessels is about six knots per hour.

The fleet which has just arrived consists of the following vessels.

A line-of-battle ship of 80 guns.	
Do. . . . .	76
Do. . . . .	76
Two frigates mounting	50
Do. . . do. . .	36
A frigate . . . . .	52
Do. . . . .	48
Do. . . . .	42
Two corvettes . . .	24
Two transport brigs .	8

There are besides, according to an official statement, in the dock-yards at Mytilene, Boodroon, &c. four ships of the line and ten heavy frigates, three corvettes, and four brigs on the stocks in various parts of the empire, and nearly ready for launching. These vessels are built by the pachas of the respective districts; and the manner in which they are built is another evidence of the short-sighted policy which characterizes all arbitrary governments. Is a maritime pachalik poor—it is ordered to make up its deficient revenues by furnishing a vessel to the government. Is a pacha supposed to have acquired property by grinding the poor of his district—he is ordered to build a vessel, and this gives him another opportunity to increase his exactions. The government, so far from feeling its own prosperity identified with that of its subjects, seems to act upon the absurd and wicked principle that every *para* wrung from the labourer is so much clear gain to the nation.

Some of the vessels were much hogged, but others would have done credit from their appearance and manœuvres to any navy. One frigate in particular, which we visited, is considered to be the crack vessel of their service; she mounts 52 guns, viz. 32 on the gun-deck, 14 on the quarter-

deck, and 6 on the forecastle, all of brass. On the subject of brass cannon for ships the Turks exhibit much ignorance : their lightness as fieldpieces presents some advantages ; but we are not aware of any superiority which they possess over iron cannon for sea service. In the navy-yard we noticed heaps of brass cannon, of all shapes and calibres, from the infancy of the art down to the present day. Some of them were pointed out to us from Negropont, which being too large for transporting entire, had been broken into several pieces. The bore of one of these was three feet in diameter, and the thickness of the piece at the muzzle was eight inches. According to a rough estimate, its weight was judged to be 4000 lbs. There are, at least, 2000 pieces of ordnance of brass in the navy-yard, which, if broken up, would produce more than a million of dollars ; but which are now lying idle and useless, as the greater part of these guns are so much injured as to be unserviceable. The Turks have latterly shown some gleamings of good sense in ordering 1500 iron cannon from England for the use of their navy. There is no iron-foundry in the country, although their castings of brass are equal to any in the world.

From the facts cited above, we may form a pretty accurate idea of the actual condition of their fleet. We are presented with the following total :

Nine line-of-battle ships.

Nineteen frigates of various sizes.

Thirteen corvettes.

Twenty-six brigs ; besides steamboats and smaller vessels.

Separating from this the mass of rubbish which is to be found in the navy-yard, we may estimate the effective force of the Turkish navy at the present moment as follows :—

Six line-of-battle ships.

Twelve frigates.

Ten corvettes ; and other smaller vessels.

To these must be added a corvette of 26 guns and 1000 tons, recently purchased in the United States, and by far the most efficient vessel in their service.

The fleet, which has recently arrived from a cruise in the Mediterranean, came into port in tolerably good order, although their manœuvres were not exactly in the first-rate style of seamanship. We were informed by Captain Kellie, of the steamboat, that upon coming to anchor at Rodosto, it was done so expeditiously, that the anchor of the admiral's line-of-battle ship was dropped into the cabin-windows of the crack frigate. We are at a loss to conceive how this could be done ; if it really occurred, it is a naval feat which is without a parallel.

Since the Greek revolution, no Greeks are permitted to serve in any capacity on board their fleet, and this regulation is strictly enforced. They regard the employment of foreigners in their service with suspicion, and indeed have much reason for it. The Greeks have played them many a slippery trick, as well as the Christian slaves whom they formerly compelled to serve in their ships. In 1660, a Turkish frigate was lying at anchor in the Bosphorus. While the captain was giving a dinner on board to his friends, the slaves mutinied, killed the Turkish crew, put the officers in irons, made sail, and the Porte never heard of them again. In 1760, the slaves in the vice-admiral's ship rose upon the crew, while the officers were at church on the island of Stanchio, cut the cables, made sail, and although hotly pursued, arrived safe at Malta. Through the mediation of France, the ship was sent back, fourteen months afterward, filled with Turkish prisoners. At the present day few Europeans would feel disposed to enter a service where his life depended upon the caprice of a captain pacha. A few French officers have occasionally appeared in their service, but they were careful to carry with them the protection of their own country. The ill effects

of this were visible at Navarino, where they were compelled to abandon the fleet previous to the action, as they were threatened by the French admiral to be treated as pirates or rebels if they were taken. An English navy lieutenant was here a year or two ago, who kindly offered to instruct the Turks in naval tactics. His proposals were very moderate. He only required the humble rank of rear-admiral, and the pay of that rank as allowed by the rules of the English service ; a little modicum of about \$30,000 per annum. The Turks replied that he should be heartily welcome to any rank, title, name, or honour that he desired ; but that they could not afford to give him a sum which nearly equalled their whole civil list.

The Turks have some good qualities as sailors, and others which will for a long time continue to operate against them. We do not speak of the men, for they are capable of being made first-rate sailors, as they are able, active, clean, and subordinate. The fault lies with the officers, who, under the existing regulations, seem to take no pride in their rank, and indulge in the indolence and apathy which mark the character of the Turkish effendi. We have seen crowds of young naval officers in attendance at the levee of a grandee, who instead of exhibiting their quarter-deck paces in the antechamber, were snugly stowed away upon a divan with their heels tucked under them, and waiting for hours in the same position without the slightest indication of impatience or uneasiness. It is fair to presume that the same sort of anchor watch is kept on board ship, and that there is not much difference in fact between a watch on deck and a watch below.

There is, moreover, no respect or etiquette kept up between the officers of different ranks, and blows are distributed rather more freely among the officers than upon the crew. An admiral will pull a captain by the beard, or slap his face without ceremony ; a captain will kick a commandant, the commandant tweak the nose of a lieutenant,

and a lieutenant whip a score of middies before breakfast, upon the slightest provocation. Nor is this all; the captain pacha has the power of life and death over all his officers and crews, a power which he exercises without ceremony or responsibility. The present captain pacha, as we have been assured by an eyewitness, acts in two different ways: when a culprit is brought before him, he is questioned as to his crime or fault, and asked to explain. If the fault is trifling, the pacha usually knocks him down by a blow upon the head with a ponderous club, and when he comes to, he finds himself in his own berth, and returns to duty as if nothing had happened. If the crime be a serious one, the pacha orders him to retire, and by a sign intimates the punishment. He is strangled immediately upon leaving the cabin, and his body thrown overboard. No such thing as a court of inquiry, court martial, or judge advocates are ever heard of, although these have been within the last two months attempted to be introduced into the army.

The rations of the Turkish sailors are good, and amply sufficient for all their wants. Their pay is \$3 62½ cents per month, and they are also furnished with clothes. They are divided into as many messes as there are cannon, and the number of seamen attached to each ship varies according to circumstances. The usual complement of a ship of the line is stated to be 1200; but the fondness for large retinues, which distinguishes all orientals, increases this number to an enormous amount. In the captain pacha's vessel, which was burned by the Greeks near Scio during the late revolution, there were more than 2200 people on board.

Each district of the empire is bound to contribute a certain number of sailors, and upon their return from a cruise they are permitted to visit their friends upon furlough. Should they exceed their furlough two or three weeks, little notice is taken of the transgression. This is, however, obviously wrong, and is one of the many causes which

prevent the government from fitting out an expedition upon the spur of the moment. A single fact will illustrate the tardy movements of their navy, although it is commanded by an active and efficient officer. About the middle of November, 1831, the movements of the Viceroy of Egypt having become very suspicious, an order was issued for the fleet to proceed to sea with all possible despatch, and yet it did not sail until the 7th of May following. It requires no skill in prophecy to foretell that a nation which thus procrastinates in its public acts will be, and indeed deserves to be, defeated.

An English resident here related to us the following anecdote, which shows the manner in which their naval affairs are managed. The successor to a former captain pacha (who was a small man) happened to be rather above the ordinary stature. On paying his first official visit to the arsenal, he went through the several vessels then lying in ordinary; and as he was compelled to stoop in going his rounds, he ordered all the decks to be heightened to suit his stature, and when some one ventured to suggest that the former pacha had determined their height after the opinion of the naval constructors, he replied that all that might be true, but that his predecessor was a little fellow, and might get along with such low decks, but that he would not put up with it, and they were accordingly all altered. If we were not misinformed, this identical big pacha afterward lost his life in the Straits of Scio.

Their nautical words are chiefly borrowed from the Greek and Italian. The pay of a commander of a vessel is \$500 per annum, and his half-pay, when not in actual service, is forty cents per day. The various ranks are dependent entirely upon the will of the sultan; hence it has happened, that a high admiral of to-day may lose his rank and command a small vessel to-morrow, with the simple title of commander.

No country in Europe has greater need of a maritime

force, and few surpass it in the abundance of all those articles necessary for the support of a marine. Excellent oak and pine are found in great abundance along the Black Sea, Marmora, and the Mediterranean. Iron is obtained from Samakof, Inada, and Cavalla; rosin from Negropont; pitch and tar from Cazdaghi; and hemp from Samsoon, Fassa, and Yooneyay. Gunpowder is manufactured near the city, and at Gallipolis and Salonica.

We were introduced a few days ago to the captain pacha, a fine, intelligent, and manly-looking Turk. His name is Halil Rifaat, or, as he is usually designated, Halil Pacha, and he appears to be about thirty-five years old. With great personal activity, he is unremitting in the duties of his station, and punishes neglect or idleness in the most summary manner. As I studied his remarkably handsome face and winning features, I could scarcely credit the stories in circulation respecting his barbarity. His history is another instance of the apparent caprice of fortune in this country, which so frequently elevates a beggar or a slave to the highest offices of government. He was originally a Georgian slave, and purchased by the present seraiskier, who adopted him as his son. This is an everyday occurrence in Turkey, but does not seem to be understood by modern travellers. It is well known that such is the political organization of this government, that it rarely happens that the children of high officers ever obtain office themselves, except among the ulema. Whether this is a part of the royal policy to prevent the formation of an hereditary nobility, we cannot venture to say, but such is the fact. The grandees being aware of this, purchase Georgian or Circassian children, give them a careful and finished education, and press them forward, in order to occupy stations where they may be of service as protectors of their own family. This purchase of slaves for such purposes must frequently give rise to incidents of a striking nature, and



we have indeed heard of several which seem almost to border upon the province of romance.

During the last war with Russia, the present captain pacha distinguished himself by several acts of gallant daring. At Shoumla, in 1828, he commanded a sortie against the largest redoubt of the enemy. It was commanded by Major General de Wrede, who after a most desperate and sanguinary resistance, was, together with his whole garrison, put to the sword. He was employed on a mission of much delicacy and importance shortly after the conclusion of the late Russian war. It was desirable on the part of the Turks to obtain a remission of some part of the amount of the subsidy, which by treaty they had agreed to pay to Russia, and it was also important to obtain her consent to extend the time of payment. Halil executed this mission with much address, and his personal appearance and manners prepossessed every one in his favour. Although previously unacquainted with French, he set about acquiring it with so much industry, that in two months he was enabled to keep up a sustained conversation with great ease. During our visit the conversation was kept up through the medium of an interpreter, although upon subsequent occasions he spoke French with great fluency.

We gathered from the pacha that, notwithstanding the large fleets which the necessities of the empire required to be continually in service, the whole annual expenses did not exceed \$2,000,000. They are, however, in economy of expenditure, excelled by the republic of Genoa, which keeps seven fine frigates of from forty-six to sixty guns each in excellent order, pays the officers and seamen, and maintains the whole coast police of Liguria and Sardinia, for a sum not exceeding \$500,000.

# CHAPTER XXXIII.

Dinner with Turkish Grandees—Coffee—Number of Dishes—Toasts—  
Conversation—Proverbs—Children of our Host—Music—Dancing-boys.

It is not often that the stranger in Turkey has an opportunity of witnessing the interior of a Turkish family, and it was therefore with mingled feelings of pleasure and curiosity that we accepted an invitation to dine with the Reis liman Bey, one of the chief officers about the court of Constantinople. He is the naval commander of the port, and his rank is that of admiral in the navy. In company with two of our countrymen, we presented ourselves at his palace at six in the evening, and were introduced between two long lines of richly dressed domestics into the reception-room, where his excellency awaited our arrival. The room was hung around with pictures of horses, battles, and, among others, the portrait of the Empress of Russia. The mention of pictures reminds us that none are more frequent in Turkey than those vile-coloured French prints emblematical of the four quarters of the globe. In these, of course, America figures with her feathers, bow, and quiver; and hence, the idea has been adopted that we as Americans must necessarily wear these ornaments and arms. A friend who has just returned from Russia informs me, that at Moscow, he was asked in a large circle, where he was introduced as an American, to put on his real dress, and to appear there next evening with his paint, feathers, and arrows.

Among the novelties in the apartment, which our host appeared to regard with complacency, was an English oil-cloth in lieu of the mats which are universally used. Chairs too were placed in various parts of the room. As soon as

the customary civilities had been exchanged, the pipe and coffee followed. The pipes were magnificent, and of the real diplomatic size, being at least six feet in length. We have already alluded to Turkish coffee, which has been alternately vilified and commended. It is exceedingly strong, and is served up with the grounds without sugar or cream. An English traveller (Sandys) about a century ago, after minutely describing the Turkish process for making what he most unorthographically spells *coffa*, gravely inquires, "Whether it be not that *blacke brothe* which was in use among the Lacedæmonians." With regard to the Turkish coffee it may be said, that after some time it becomes palatable, and when used in small quantities, and for the same purpose that it is employed here, it is an agreeable and refreshing beverage. The Turks never use it as a meal, but simply to sweeten their mouths after smoking. Taken in this way, it is far better than our weak infusion, which, by courtesy alone, has obtained the name of coffee. After some conversation with our host, who speaks a little Italian, we were ushered into the next room, where we found the dinner served up in as handsome style as it has ever been our lot to witness in Europe or America. The knives, forks, and plates were of English manufacture, and of the most costly kind; the table was set off by cut glass of exquisite workmanship, French wines of the most delicate flavour made their appearance, and in short, nothing was wanting to satisfy even the fastidiousness of an English exclusive. We should hardly have supposed ourselves in Turkey, had it not been for the venerable beards of some of our neighbours, and the armed and scarlet-dressed attendants who stood behind our chairs.

We took our seats without any ceremony or prearranged order, and after a preliminary whet with *rakée* as an appetizer, proceeded to do justice to the good things before us. Soup, fish, roasted turkeys, joints of meat, game, &c. were severally introduced and discussed in the most ortho-

dox and unexceptionable order. It was not until we had made a hearty meal, that we were apprized that our labours had only begun. According to the custom of the country, there were only some thirty or forty dishes in reserve, all of which must at least be tasted, in order to do honour to our host. It was a practical illustration of the old saw, "to kill with kindness," but as there was no escape, we braced ourselves for the task. The same savage custom prevails in some remote parts of our own country, we regret to say, and under even a more horrid shape. We still remember with loathing and disgust an occasion of this kind, in which our efforts to be civil nearly cost us our life. Our worthy hostess had succeeded in heaping on our plate a motley mixture of meat, vegetables, and sauce of such prodigious dimensions, that we fear to name them, lest we should be suspected of exaggeration. We may, however, mention, that we could not feed from its summit without arising from our chair, and to attack the flanks of this artificial mound might have caused the whole to topple down headlong and bury us in a premature grave. Thanks to the organization of the societies for the suppression of vice, these enormities are now rarely perpetrated. The Turkish practice offers few of these inconveniences; for, provided one merely tastes a dish it is sufficient, but many of them were so exquisite, that we should have been pleased with an opportunity of discussing them as a whole meal. They were all new to us, and many of them exceedingly savoury,—one in particular seemed worthy of a br  vet d'importation into our hemisphere. It appears in the shape of an immense custard, and owes its peculiar excellent flavour to the presence of the breasts of very young chickens, which are by some means so intimately blended and incorporated with the custard as to be scarcely distinguishable. It is certainly an exquisite dish, and worthy of being classed with that French sauce which is said to be so palatable, that a person might be tempted

with it to eat his own grandfather. We rejected, as unworthy of credit, the suggestion of one of our American friends near us, who hinted that he knew how to make this dish in a very compendious way; as only the breasts of very young chickens are employed, he proposed to prepare the custard by using chickens in the shell.

After the appearance and removal of at least forty dishes, and the Champagne and Margaux had freely circulated, we were favoured with a visit from a Turkish dignitary, who dropped in very unceremoniously, and entered with great freedom into the festivals of the evening. He was an intimate friend of our host, and if we remember right, was chief secretary to the captain pacha. Shortly after his appearance, we were invited to propose toasts, and accordingly commenced, as in duty bound, with the health of the sultan. This was received at first with a stare of surprise, but was quickly followed by loud applause. The sultan is such a sacred topic among his subjects, that we anticipated a solemn silence, but our new friends offered to appreciate our motives, and accordingly loud and enthusiastic affairims! (bravo's) resounded through the hall. Actuated by the warm feelings of the moment, many of them laid aside their conscientious scruples, and joined in the toasts with great glee. We do not mean positively to affirm, that they joined us in discussing the Lafitte and Margaux, for they had a substitute which is allowable, on some occasions, for the stomach's sake. Unluckily for the reputation of Mohammed as a prophet, he was not gifted with sufficient foresight to warn his followers against the appearance of a liquid which might frustrate his wise and benevolent intentions. Accordingly, we find that rakee, a delicate and seductive variety of the great alcoholic family, is not always regarded by a Turkish gentleman with the same pious horror with which he views a glass of generous wine; and, upon this occasion, some of them used it with water to do honour to the toasts. Our

entertainer, a distinguished naval officer, who had visited foreign countries, and was in many respects a man of the world, declined quietly, and without the least affectation, our profane wishes to induce him to pledge us in any thing but pure water.

But what shall we say of the conversation, the table-talk among a people so habitually grave and taciturn as the Turks. Religion is never discussed in mixed society, politics they leave to the Padir Shah, who is emphatically "*the party*" in Turkey, which all are interested in maintaining. These simple souls never dreamed of the discovery made in modern times, among the freest governments, by which nearly one-half of the community are excluded from all offices and honours, on the score of their belonging to another party. From their retired modes of living, scandal can have no existence, and we are informed that they have not even a name for it in the language. The conversation turned upon manners and customs of our respective countries; and it appeared to be a mark of breeding to avoid inquiries respecting our religion, government, or women.

We had been much diverted by the introduction of several quaint proverbs, and as they are usually considered as the condensed wisdom of a nation, we afterward made a large collection, of which the following may serve as specimens:—

A little stone can make a great bruise.

In a cart drawn by oxen you may catch a hare.

A foolish friend does more harm than a wise enemy.

It is not by saying honey! honey! that sweets come to the mouth.

He who expects a friend without faults, will never find one.

He sells a crow for a nightingale.

Eat and drink with your friend, but transact no business with him.

A man deceives another but once.

It is difficult to take a wolf by the ears.

You can't carry two melons under one arm.

To live quietly, one should be blind, deaf, and dumb.

All that you give you will carry with you.

More flies are caught by a drop of honey than by a hogshead of vinegar.

Who gives to the poor, gives to God.

The fool has his heart on his tongue, the wise man keeps his tongue in his heart.

Good wine and handsome women are two agreeable poisons.

Every event which causes a tear is accompanied by another which produces a smile.

An egg to-day is better than a hen to-morrow.

Do good and throw it into the sea; if the fishes don't know it, God will.

He who fears God does not fear man.

If your enemy is no bigger than a pismire, fancy him as large as an elephant.

A wife causes the prosperity or the ruin of a house.

He who knows every thing is often deceived.

He who weeps for everybody soon loses his eyesight.

More is learned by conversation than by reading.

A friend is more valuable than a relative.

There are more invisible than visible things.

He who rides a borrowed horse does not ride often.

Don't trust to the whiteness of the turban, the soap was bought on trust.

Death is a black camel which kneels at every door.

When you visit a blind man, shut your eyes.

Blood is not washed out with blood, but with water.

Although the tongue has no bones, it breaks bones.

The heart is a child, it hopes what it wishes.

It would be easy to extend this list, but enough has been cited to show the temper and genius of the people. The

frequent allusions to friends and enemies originated, no doubt, in their peculiar hostile attitude towards every nation around them. Many of them are pregnant with meaning, and afford interesting matter for reflection. How many a wise saw, moreover, which we have supposed to be of native growth, it is apparent from this list, is of oriental parentage.

After dinner, the children of the admiral (a boy and girl, about seven years old, and very beautiful) were brought in to see their father's guests. This is one of those good old practices formerly much in vogue in England; but which a stupid fondness for aping foreign habits has almost permitted to become obsolete. It always produces a pleasing impression; the host is exhibited to his guests in a new light, and it serves equally to abridge a dull prosy conversation, or to cut short a vehement argument. Young Master Ali Bey, for such was his name and title, appeared to be a bright lad, although he seemed to regard us strangers with some reserve, and resisted every attempt to become better acquainted.

After the cloth was removed six Arab musicians made their appearance; they sat down on the floor near the open door, and commenced singing Turkish airs with the accompaniments of violins, small lutes, and a tambourine, and this was continued at intervals during the evening. It is, however, a mistake to suppose that the Turkish music is deficient in tones or time, or that it wants intonations. An amateur assured me that it was even richer than European music in semitones and melody. To judge by the specimens we had this evening, we should be disposed to characterize Turkish music as soft and harmonious, somewhat monotonous, and strongly marked by mannerism. The old Scotch air of Roslin Castle, played in quicker time and without pauses or rests, will convey a tolerable idea of the general character of Turkish music. A lad of fourteen accompanied the instruments with words which, we were in-



formed, were loose verses. We asked for a patriotic, or what we call a national song, but was informed that none of this kind are extant in Turkey.

A person who has been several years in their service, but whose name for obvious reasons we cannot quote, stated to us that the feeling of patriotism, and of course its name, are equally unknown to the Turks. This, however, we are not disposed to credit, although it may not possibly exist in the sense in which the word is used among us. They substitute for it the common bond of religion, which leads every Turk to stand or fall by his brother for the honour and glory of their sultan, the living representative of their prophet. It has likewise been asserted that the word honour is unknown among the Turks, but this is unfounded. The words *irz*, *nahmoos*, *schann*, &c. all express different modifications of our word honour. These pretended discoveries, always be it noted, made by foreigners knowing little of the language, reminds one of the Englishman who, upon his arrival in France, cocks up his lordly nose, and exclaims, "Comfort! how should these French frogs know what it means, when they have not even a word to express it?" The ass is ignorant of the fact that his countrymen are indebted to the French for the very word in question.

During the evening the youngest of the musicians retired for a few minutes, and soon made his appearance with a Cashmere shawl, enveloping his head and shoulders. It was intimated to us that he was to personate the part of a woman, and accordingly, as a female dancer, he went through a series of evolutions which were insipid and vulgar enough, if measured by our standard of saltatory excellence. Some English travellers have thought that they detected a close resemblance between these exhibitions and the morris-dancing still kept up in many parts of their country. It resembled so closely the Spanish fandango, though devoid of its grace, that there could be little doubt of its

being derived from the same Moorish source. After spending a very agreeable evening, we took our leave at midnight. The liveried attendants of the Reis liman Bey took their stations on each side of the hall, with massive silver candlesticks in their hands, as we passed out, and our worthy host, after many pressing entreaties to take beds in his house, very courteously furnished us with his six-oared barge to convey us home.

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## CHAPTER XXXIV.

*Cholera—Its Appearance at Constantinople—Symptoms and mode of Cure—Is it a new Disease?—Not contagious—Quarantines, and examples of their absurdity.*

DURING our residence here we have had rumours of cholera, and its ravages were said to be peculiarly destructive. The Turks, who meet death with great stoicism in the shape of plague, were terrified at the approach of a new disease, which is said to be destructive in a few hours, and in some cases instantaneously fatal. After many vague reports respecting its existence in the suburbs of Constantinople, it suddenly made its appearance on board an American sloop of war then lying off Seraglio Point. Several of the men were suddenly attacked, and three died in the course of a few hours. We could learn nothing of the particulars of these cases, as the vessel proceeded to sea on the following day. After this, frequent cases occurred, and the progress of the disease was extremely irregular and unaccountable. It would appear in a village or a particular quarter of the city in one night, and numbers would be attacked, when it would entirely disappear from that neighbourhood, and make its appearance in the same mysterious

manner in another quarter of the city, or in another village several miles distant. It is a common belief among the physicians here, that the cause of this mortal disease, whatever it may be, is conveyed by particular currents of air; but this hypothesis is surrounded with difficulties. Some suppose it to be caused by animalculæ, and others by a peculiar subtle poison; while others again, overlooking second causes, refer it directly to the agency of the Deity as a punishment for sins.

We believe it to be generally conceded, that the present eudiometrical processes for the analysis of air are far from being perfect; and we therefore take leave to suggest that the cause of this disease will be found to exist in the alterations which have taken place in the constituent parts of the air. We think that a diminution of the quantity of oxygen, or an increase of carbonic acid gas, would be sufficient to produce the same train of symptoms. This hypothesis is capable of being tested by direct experiment, upon individuals whose lives have been already forfeited. In the absence of direct proof, we have analogical evidence in other cases where asphyxia is produced by well known causes.

When this formidable pest was at this height, the American vessel United States was at anchor off Dolmabatchi in the Bosphorus. She had an unusually healthy crew, and while the cholera was raging on board of other vessels in the harbour, she had so far fortunately escaped. A few weeks since, the first officer of this vessel was attacked and died in five hours, and within an hour after the commencement of this attack, seven others of the crew were taken down with the same symptoms. By the timely application of the usual remedies, all but two were immediately relieved. These two (blacks) had resisted for a length of time every attempt to bleed them, until the disease had made too great progress.

This is not the place for a medical essay, but as it is a

disease which is rapidly extending itself over Europe, and will in all probability visit our shores,\* a brief sketch of the form under which it appeared here, and the treatment which was found most efficacious, may not be uninteresting.

The first symptom was a sensation of uneasiness about the stomach and bowels, not amounting to positive pain, but accompanied with great prostration of strength and nausea. Vomiting and watery purges soon appeared, and shortly afterward, spasms. These spasms varied in intensity in almost every patient, and in some cases none whatever appeared. The face was pallid and contracted; the patient complained of cold extremities (which was often the first symptom), and of excessive thirst. In this state the patient died with perfect consciousness, but with complete indifference to every thing around him. In some instances there was a burning sensation in the pit of the stomach, which in India we are informed invariably accompanies this disease.

As soon as cholera made its appearance, the following was the uniform treatment, and we had abundant opportunities of witnessing its value. A dose of from 50 to 200 drops of laudanum, with five to twenty drops of oil of peppermint, according to the urgency of the symptoms, was immediately administered in hot rum or rakee, and this it was sometimes requisite to repeat. Blood was immediately taken from one or both arms, and the bleeding was continued until deliquium or perspiration ensued, or until the pulse became more firm and distinct, when the patient would express his relief from all disease. It was frequently necessary to repeat the bleeding either generally or topically, and to support the strength at the same time. In the five fatal cases which we witnessed, no blood could be obtained. It had a black and viscid appearance like

\* These apprehensions have since been realized.

that drawn from persons labouring under congestive fever, or in cases of poisoning by arsenic. Frictions and external heat to the extremities were also valuable auxiliaries. When the patient is convalescent, his diet is to be scrupulously attended to. He is confined rigidly to gum water and other mild diluents, and the least error or excess occasioned a relapse, which made its appearance in the form of local congestions, evinced by pain in the head or bowels. For this leeches are liberally applied, and we have seen from 50 to 100 leeches used on one person. In the after stages, small and repeated doses of calomel and opium were found highly beneficial. When the disease was properly treated at its onset, it was immediately and almost certainly arrested in its progress.

The disease appears to have left us entirely, and we now hear of its appearance in Smyrna, which from its low swampy situation seems to be peculiarly exposed to its ravages. The number of deaths here cannot be known, as the Turks have no bills of mortality, and indeed during a season of pestilence their utility seems questionable. Fear, we know to be one of the strongest predisposing causes of this disease, and this is constantly kept up by knowing the full extent of the mortality. When the pestilence is on the decline, the publication of authentic bulletins is highly useful in restoring public confidence. As far as our opportunities extended, we suppose that 1000 deaths have taken place.

We have thus given a brief sketch of its appearance here, and of the treatment which was found most efficacious, but we should mislead the reader if we were to allow him to suppose that this is always the form under which this disease appears. We were favoured with the perusal of a letter from a celebrated English physician, who has seen this disease in British India, and who is now practising at Shiraz in Persia, where the cholera has prevailed. He avers that no one should be hardy enough to declare that

he is acquainted with cholera, for that it not only differs in its features in different places, but at the same place it rarely appears under the same form for two consecutive seasons. This variety of form, which was often manifested by the predominance of one particular symptom,\* or by an alteration in the succession of the symptoms, although it required a corresponding variation in the practice, does not affect the general principles of the mode of cure.

The disease, as we had abundant opportunities of seeing it, evidently depended upon a congestion of blood in the heart and great vessels. The indications of cure were therefore to stimulate the heart to act, and to abstract as much blood as possible in order to give the heart liberty to carry on the circulation. For the same purpose frictions to the surface are useful in exciting the action of the capillary vessels. Along with this, opium and calomel in small doses were highly beneficial in strengthening and equalizing the circulation. We have reason to believe that many cases in which patients were thought to have been suddenly destroyed here by cholera, should have been attributed to insolation, or to drinking cold water.

Is the cholera a new disease? we apprehend not, although it may possibly be new in its epidemic form. Traces of it may be found among the Jews three thousand years ago. It is stated in the Old Testament, that the Lord, after promising the Jews abundance (Numbers xi. 20), declares that they shall be fed upon this food until it comes out of their nostrils, and until, as the Septuagint expresses it, they have the cholera (*χολέρα*), which in fact afterward appeared. In our English version it is translated "loathsomeness," but we are informed by an intelligent Hebrew that the original Hebrew word "zorah" means nausea, which is one of the

\* At Erzeroom, spasms; at Vienna, giddiness; at Smyrna, discoloration of the hands—were the most prominent, and often the premonitory symptoms. In some places, the women were most liable to the disease, and in others they invariably escaped.

most constant symptoms of cholera. The Jews were at that time in the very best condition for receiving this disease. They had been previously suffering from famine, and they were suddenly furnished with an abundance of savoury food, of the most nutritious kind. An excess in diet is known to be as powerful a predisposing cause as a poor quality of food or rigid abstinence, and in this case the Jews exposed themselves to the invasion of the disease.\* Several years since we noticed at St. Salvador in Brazil a disease which is said to be endemic there. It is called *constipação*, which means a cold or constipation, and exhibits the following symptoms. Without any previous warning the patient feels chilly, then cold, and in a few minutes is unable to stand. His features become pinched, his pulse indistinct, and his body cold. Purging also takes place, and sometimes vomiting. If perspiration cannot be brought on, he dies in a few hours in this state.

So far this may be considered as the cold stage of a congestive fever, and we are warranted in believing it to be one of the thousand varieties of cholera, which we suppose to be a congestive fever, in which, for the most part, the patient dies in the cold stage. With this disease, too, we should be inclined to associate the spotted fever of the eastern states, and still more the cold plague of the Mississippi valley.

Whether cholera be contagious is a question about which (whatever may be the fancies or the fears of ignorance) there is but one opinion among the oriental physicians. They are unanimous in their belief of cholera

\* In our own country we have since had a melancholy example of the effects produced by a sudden change of diet, in the Arch-street prison at Philadelphia, and the state prison at Sing Sing in New-York. In the last place, it was amusing to witness a *special* medical council prying into the origin of this disease, by examining the vessels which carried away the stone ballast, and questioning the healthy crews. They would have solved the mystery by looking into the kitchen of the establishment.

being noncontagious ; although partly to accommodate themselves to the vulgar prejudices, and partly to inspire confidence, they direct fumigations and purification by water.

In fact, its sudden appearance and disappearance cannot be reconciled with any of the known laws of contagion ; and although much stress is laid by superficial reasoners upon its following the track of human intercourse, we should be glad to learn how it could extend itself in any other manner. When human beings failed, the disease could have no opportunity of manifesting its existence. Dr. Macneil, the gentleman to whose letter we have already referred, related a circumstance which one would suppose decisive. At an encampment in India, where the cholera raged with great violence, he had at one time a hundred patients. At the bed of each patient another soldier was stationed, to watch him closely, and to give the requisite medicines every hour. In not a single instance was any of the attendants affected by the disease.

The panic which spread throughout Europe on the appearance of this disease was not altogether unfounded ; but the idea of contagion adds tenfold to its horrors. The rulers of Europe, who in all past times made quarantines the pretext for shutting out the contagion of liberal ideas, eagerly seized upon this disease as a reason for doubling their quarantines, and, if possible, increasing their rigour. This has been carried, during the present year, to such an extent, that all commercial intercourse was at a stand, and the short-sighted despots discovered at last that there were bounds and limits even to their arbitrary decrees. To the honour of the royal race, there was one crowned head who refused to establish quarantines, and contented himself with laughing at the beards of his royal brethren. We allude, of course, to Sultan Mahmoud, who could not go the whole length of what is considered in Europe as the index of civilization, to wit, custom-houses



and quarantines. Some gleamings of common sense also seem, at last, to have enlightened the perceptions of the Emperor of Austria, or rather of his keeper Prince Metternich. On the 12th of October of this year he published a decree which we have now before us. In this he acknowledges that all efforts to resist the progress of the cholera had failed; that the sanitary cordons had exposed to frequent attacks the troops\* employed on that service; and last, though not least, that great embarrassments to commerce had ensued. Excited therefore by his "paternal solicitude," he revokes his former decree, which places cholera on the same list with plague. He takes this occasion, however, to establish a new sanitary cordon all along the borders of his Italian provinces wherever a custom-house is established. Those who remember the sanitary cordons, established along the Spanish frontier previous to the last French invasion, will readily comprehend how far medical considerations have operated in the formation of these new lines of quarantines.

It would be, perhaps, a hopeless task to endeavour to convince the world of the utter futility of attempting to restrain the ravages or prevent the access of epidemics by quarantines; although our experience in America should convince us that epidemic yellow-fever is better controlled by evacuating the infected district than by creating an infective atmosphere, which is always the case when many persons, labouring under the same disease, are shut up in the same enclosure.

When Mohammed was ill with the plague, he was shut up in a cell with eighteen poor wretches who had no disease. The consequences were obvious: they all perished, and the enlightened jailer received public thanks because the

\* The American reader will probably require to be informed that all European quarantines are upon a military footing, and in many countries the infraction of a quarantine is punished with instant death.

disease extended no farther. "This," observes the author of the Mussulman, "was the first attempt at quarantine; it was a European custom, and as it worked well, it was hailed as one of the great reforms to which Turkey was to owe her regeneration. The noise of it even reached the country of the Frangis, and the prime minister of the Giaours expressed a hope of soon congratulating Christendom upon the event." The prime minister of the Giaours may, however, reserve his congratulations for a future and, it is to be hoped, a far distant period. The Turks content themselves with sending those attacked with plague to breathe the pure air of the country, and purify their dwellings. In the mean time they permit vessels to arrive from all parts of the world, and to depart, undisturbed and unimpeded by the delay, the expense, the imprisonment, and the official impertinence and extortion of a quarantine establishment. Let the contagionist, who is at a loss to bolster up his belief, resort to the quarantines of Europe, and he will find them in abundance: he will obtain any quantity of the most miraculous cases, sworn to by every quarantine officer, and the name of the Deity appealed to in support not only of improbable but impossible cases: he will be fortified with solemn affidavits, sworn to by the 58 officers of the quarantine at Odessa, that a man once caught the plague there by merely treading on a piece of rag in the yard of the hospital, so small that it was not discovered on his shoe until after his death. The hundred officials at Malta will solemnly certify upon oath that the plague was once communicated there by a man who scratched his head, and the dandriff, wafted through the iron grates of the parlatorio, fell upon the hat of another at the distance of twenty feet: he went home, and when one of his children sickened and died of a disease resembling plague, it was discovered that the little fellow had been playing with his father's hat. This case relieved the authorities, and a formal *procès verbal* still exists to prove a case of contagion. In short, from

men interested in keeping up the delusion one may obtain certificates to the most revolting absurdities.

It may safely be asserted that quarantines are jobs designedly intended to give salaries to physicians, superintendents, and guards, at the expense of the unfortunate sufferers. In the Levant, in addition to these powerful pecuniary reasons, others of a political nature tend to keep up the monstrous farce. During the thirty or forty days' quarantine, ample time is allowed to procure all the information necessary respecting the opinions and views of the prisoner. He is surrounded by spies; and the man who supplies him with food at twice its value panders to the guilty fears of his government, by furnishing them with the minutest chit-chat of the stranger, which may throw any light upon his political opinions. It is, in fact, not so much the contagion of disease as of liberal opinions that is dreaded, and in this view quarantines are to be despised as the instruments of despotism.

As an impolitic measure, affecting the intercourse between nations, and discouraging commercial enterprise, history affords us many examples. Marseilles has the honour of figuring largely in the history of quarantines. A vessel entering that port has been known to be subject to a long and rigorous detention, although coming from a healthy port, simply because she had spoken a vessel at sea, which vessel had furnished a rumour that the plague had broken out in another port. At Marseilles, Protestants, Turks, Jews, and gentiles are compelled to pay certain dues to a Catholic chapel; and when some one remonstrated against it, the chief of the establishment gave this liberal answer: "Well, then, turn Catholic." The consequence of such excessive rigour has been the gradual diminution of trade to this port, and the commerce of France generally in the Levant. We have known cases ourselves where shipments from the United States, originally intended for Marseilles, have been directed elsewhere as soon as her port

regulations were fully understood. In 1784 France engrossed more than one-half of all the commerce of the Levant. At the present day she ranks in this respect after England, Austria, Russia, the United States, and Holland. Much of this falling off has been distinctly traced to her absurd quarantines, although other causes have no doubt contributed their share.

We have seen the destructive and suicidal policy of these regulations illustrated in the following manner. We will suppose that 240 vessels arrive at a certain port in the course of a year; forty days for each vessel would give in the course of twelve years 9600 days, or nearly 26 years and a half wasted by all the vessels. If the quarantine was reduced to eight or ten days, there would still be a dead loss in time among all these vessels of more than six years. All this lost time must be considered as so much money wasted; and when to this we add expenses, wear and tear of ship, waste of property, loss of market, interest of money, and quarantine fees, we shall find that it amounts to more than a million of dollars for a single port alone.

The voyager in the Mediterranean meets with vexatious quarantines in every port, and, as a general rule, their rigour is in proportion, generally speaking, to the ignorance of the people, or the dearth of medical skill. Malta and Gibraltar are two exceptions; but these are military stations, and, of course, the details of commerce are altogether beneath the lordly consideration of their commanders.

It may perhaps amuse our readers to give a bird's eye view of a quarantine, such as we have experienced it in the Mediterranean: the scene occurred at Gibraltar. As soon as the ship comes to anchor she is approached by the quarantine officer, who remains in his boat a short distance from the vessel, carefully avoiding all contact even with a boat-hook. He then proceeds to put the usual official queries. "Was there any contagious disease at the port you sailed from?" This is a pretty broad question, embracing

itch, syphilis, and other maladies. "Hoist a yellow flag immediately. How many men have you? Muster them along the side so that I can see them." If we had been so fortunate as to have sailed from a port where there was a kindred establishment, we should have been permitted under certain absurd restrictions to go ashore at a certain spot, and talk through a double line of iron gratings with our friends. This was not our case, and accordingly all communication with the shore, or any other vessel, was strictly forbidden; and to ensure the observance of this regulation a guard-boat was stationed near us. We wished to send a letter on shore, which after some difficulty they consented to take. The letter was taken from us by means of a pair of tongs fastened to a long pole; it was then introduced into a tin box containing vinegar, and carried to the shore, where our poor letter went through the following additional process. It was cautiously extracted from the box by another pair of tongs, and after a fumigation of several hours, passed through the hands of the secretary of his excellency the governor, by whom it was forwarded to its destination. We were informed that if we wished to land property or passengers it was entirely out of the question, if we remained here until doomsday. We had merely stopped for a supply of water, and we were ordered to quit the harbour as soon as we had received it, which they took care should be furnished in a few hours. The expenses of this ridiculous farce amounted to about \$50; and, with whatever reluctance the money was paid, we never saw specie received with so many precautions. The silver dollars which they received were carefully soaked in salt-water, before they would incur the hazard of plague or cholera by handling them with their dainty fingers.

# CHAPTER XXXV.

Arnaoutkeui—Oysters—Opium Eaters—St. Sophia—Other Mosques and the various Establishments connected with them—The Revenues—Mohammed—His Rise and Success—Koran—Not implicitly received by every Turk.

DURING the frequent rambles which we are in the daily habit of making in the environs of Stamboul, we stopped a few days since at Arnaoutkeui, one of the prettiest villages on the European shore of the Bosphorus. This village, as the name implies, was originally settled by those respectable cut-throats, the Arnaout Greeks, to whom we have already alluded. At present it enjoys a more peaceful, and we might add, tasteful notoriety. The small luscious oysters of the Bosphorus are nowhere to be found in greater abundance than at Arnaoutkeui. We entered a Greek wine-shop, which was pointed out to us as the headquarters for these "bivalve moluscas," and surrounded by a motley crew of Jews, Greeks, and Armenians, all similarly occupied, we did ample justice to the Arnaoutkeui *Strithia*. We should not have deemed the above incident worthy of being recorded, had it not been associated with another which illustrates the spread of our domestic manufactures. One of the most conspicuous ornaments on the dingy walls was a famous handbill containing in large type the following notice: "The best of cider carefully bottled and refined, by John Fenno, Boston." Such an appeal at such a distance from home, aroused all our dormant patriotism, and a bottle of "apple-water," as the Turks call it, quickly made its appearance. In good truth, Mr. John Fenno of Boston had not exaggerated the merits of his "best of cider."

It was here, too, that we saw for the first time an opium eater. He was a miserable-looking Jew, pale and emaciated, and, although his eyes were rolling about every part of the room, he appeared to be unconscious of the presence of any one around him. The idea of a Turk and an opium eater is so naturally associated in our minds, that for a long period after our arrival here we were in daily expectation of meeting some Turk in the streets, maddened with opium, and ready to plunge his yataghan into the body of the first Christian that crossed his path. It was not until after a residence of several months that we were enabled to put a just value upon the representation of those who deal in exaggeration, in order to make an impressive picture. As none fell in our way, we determined to ferret them out in their secret haunts, and even to experiment ourselves with this pleasing poison.

Opium is known to be one of the staple products of Turkey; and hence, it has been logically inferred, that everybody in the country must use it habitually. The Turks, by the same ingenious process of reasoning, conclude that the Americans are the most intolerable opium eaters in the world, because they are the greatest purchasers of that commodity. Most of the opium raised in Turkey comes from Asia, and particularly from the plains between Mount Olympus and Constantinople, in the region formerly known as the kingdom of Bithynia. Its culture is very simple, and requires no particular care. The green capsules of the plant are scarified with a knife, and the juice which exudes is left exposed to the sun one day before it is scraped off. This is the purest kind, and is used by the inhabitants on their holydays and festivals. Doctor Walsh, who has visited these opium districts, informs us that although much is consumed on the spot, the inhabitants are notwithstanding a remarkably florid, healthy race. The ordinary opium of commerce is an inferior article, consisting of the inspissated juice of the poppy heads boiled down

with the various foreign ingredients. The purer kind is termed *meslak* and *aphioon* by the Turks, and *opon* by the Greeks. This latter word signifies literally juice, and hence our word opium.

We one day visited the celebrated spot which has figured so largely in the descriptions of travellers as the opium bazar. It is known under the name of the *Teerah-kee charrsehshéh*. It consists of a range of low coffee-shops, looking upon an open desolate spot bounded by the walls of the mosque of Suleiman. In front of each shop, according to the usual custom in Turkey where there is space sufficient, there were small raised platforms upon which the true believer may enjoy his pipe *al fresco*, and relieve the monotony of his meditations by noting the passers by. After walking through them several times, we could not, among all the customers, detect one who appeared to be under the influence of opium. We took our seats in one which was the best filled and appeared to be the most fashionable place of resort, and after discussing the usual pipe and coffee, requested the coffee-shop keeper to furnish us with the customary potion for which the place was celebrated. The man informed us, that although the place had once been famous for opium eaters, and some of the shops still vended the drug, yet the practice had become disreputable, and was now but rarely followed. He would supply us with a dose from the neighbouring shops if we insisted upon it, but at the same time, for the reputation of his establishment, he should insist upon our quitting his shop as soon as we had taken it. One of the old Turks inquired who sent us there, and when we mentioned our sources of information, laughed at our beards, and wondered how we could be imposed upon by the books of lying Frank travellers. We afterward repeated our visits frequently to this place with the same result, so that we were compelled at last to believe, that although opium is still occasionally used, yet that, if in reality the practice ever



existed, it has ceased to be a national vice ; that the race of opium eaters has disappeared, and with them one of the greatest marvels of Stamboul.\*

We have mentioned the mosque of Suleiman as being in the vicinity of the opium bazar. This is one of the thirteen royal mosques of Constantinople. It was built in 1556, and, as its name imports, by Sultan Solyman the Second. According to tradition, the four superb columns of red granite in the interior which support the dome were brought from Ephesus, and the others are said to have been obtained from Troas, where they once adorned the famous temple of Diana. They are each 64 feet high, and formed of a single block. The building itself is 250 feet square, and has a large open court or peristyle surrounded by a sort of covered cloister, which is supported by massy monolithic columns of Egyptian granite, porphyry, verd antique, and white marble, 30 feet high, and 4 feet in diameter. In the centre of this paved area is an elaborately worked fountain, which furnishes a copious supply to the faithful, who always preface their prayers by ablution. Behind this mosque is another enclosure containing the toorbay or mausoleum of Suleiman, and his favourite Roxalana, whose history partakes more of fable than history. We looked into this mosque, but saw nothing more than a matted floor, and the otherwise imposing effect of the vast interior was destroyed by innumerable coloured glass lamps and ostrich eggs, hanging down to within a few feet of the floor. We give the preference to this mosque for general effect over every other mosque that we have as yet seen in the Turkish empire ; and, although constructed after the plan of St. Sophia, it far excels its model.

\* It would be an interesting subject of inquiry, to ascertain how far this practice is carried with us. The quantity consumed in our country is very great, and far exceeds the amount required for medicinal purposes. A respectable medical practitioner in one of our inland villages assured me that he could mention more than twenty individuals who used opium daily. They were all females. Let our temperance societies investigate this matter.

St. Sophia rises proudly from an eminence near the *seraglio*, and, although not so lofty as some of the other royal mosques, it is nevertheless one of the first objects which attract the eye of the traveller as he approaches the Ottoman capital. The American hastens to visit a monument of human industry and skill, which has bidden defiance to repeated earthquakes, and to the corroding influence of time for thirteen centuries; he is anxious to behold a structure composed in part of the great temple of Diana of Ephesus, and which is described as one of the most splendid monuments of the middle ages. He approaches, beholds a shapeless pile of stones, gigantic but barbarous, destitute even of simplicity, and violating every principle of architectural science. It appears as if the ponderous buttresses were about to crush in the building they were intended to support, and it has no front worthy of its magnitude. Our own impressions coincided with those of Mr. Hobhouse, "that the skill of a hundred architects, the labour of 10,000 workmen, the wealth of an empire, and the guardianship of presiding angels, had raised a stupendous monument of the heavy mediocrity which distinguishes the productions of the sixth century from the perfect specimens of a happier age."

If it fails, however, in exciting applause and admiration from its proportions or magnitude, it is nevertheless full of interest from its historical associations. It was originally built by Constantine the Great, and much enlarged and improved by his son Constantius. This edifice was burnt during the furious religious feuds of his successor, and the party who are accused of having set it on fire were headed by an individual who has descended to posterity under the name of St. Chrysostom. It was again burnt under Honorius, and rebuilt by Theodosius, and in the early part of the reign of Justinian, it was for the last time consumed by the destructive element.

This emperor caused it to be rebuilt in nearly its original

form, in which state it has existed to the present day. It has frequently been rocked by earthquakes and riven by lightning, but as often repaired and restored. Justinian is said to have been five years in completing it, and to have appropriated towards its constructure the salaries of all the teachers of learning in every part of his empire. For the purpose of covering the dome\* he employed the leaden pipes which conveyed water to various parts of the city. In this phrensy for building, Justinian seems to have been equally unmindful of the wants and the comforts of his people, and the monument which he has left behind merely testifies to his having been a tasteless barbarian, who, by accident, had the control of the resources of an empire.

The most remarkable epoch in the history of this building is when it ceased to be a Christian temple, and became the fountain-head, the very throne and seat of the religion of Mohammed. When the strange mixture of fanaticism and imbecility which appears to have been the unvarying character of the Greek emperors, reduced the empire to the brink of ruin, and the last of the Constantines expiated by a soldier's death a life of crime; the victorious Mohammed the Second entering the city dismounted from his horse, and in this temple, which had been alternately burnt and profaned by the fanaticism of the Greeks, he offered up his thanks to the God of hosts who had crowned his armies with success. The gilded altars were thrown down, the richly-carved crosses were prostrated, the pictures on the walls were removed and stripped of their gold and silver, and the whole building restored to a state of primitive simplicity.

\* Its dome is said to be constructed with bricks so light as to float on the surface of water. This is no fable, for bricks of this kind have been made within our own times. Fabroni of Florence, and Fajjas of Paris mixed agarie mineral and clay in certain proportions, and formed an excellent fire-brick which floated in water. An ordinary brick weighs six pounds, these only 4½ oz. They might be advantageously employed in the construction of powder magazines in our ships of war.

The other thirteen royal mosques are all built after the model of St. Sophia, and have attached to each the following institutions:—

1. *Imarays*. Places where food and a small sum of money are daily furnished to poor students and to a certain number of the destitute. It is estimated that from thirty to forty thousand persons are thus daily supplied with food in Constantinople.

2. *Hospitals*. These are capable of holding from 150 to 300 patients each. In some of them, Christian and Turk are indiscriminately admitted. They are in general badly organized, and medical aid is rarely to be found there.

3. *Mekteb*, or public schools. In these the children of the poor are gratuitously instructed in reading, writing, and in the elements of their religion. Each school has a certain number of scholars, who are fed and clothed at the expense of the mosque. The *kodjah*, or schoolmaster, is permitted to receive presents from the parents of poor children, but his chief support is from the mosque.

4. *Maydressay*, or college. The mosque of Sulieman has five of these colleges attached to it; one is more particularly devoted to medicine. All the others are for the study of law and theology. The studies are divided into ten classes. Grammar, syntax, logic, morals, the science of allegories, rhetoric theology, philosophy, jurisprudence, the Koran, and the oral laws of the prophet. These colleges contain from twelve to thirty rooms for the lodgings of students. The particular name given to these college lads is *softah*, meaning patients or sufferers, a term not altogether inapplicable to students nearer home.

The greatest attention is paid in these colleges to the study of Arabic, Persian, and the ancient and modern Turkish. Other studies, which appear to be generally neglected, are mathematics, geography, and natural philosophy.

5. *Kitab hannay*, or libraries. Of these there are thirty-five in Constantinople. The smallest contains 1500, and the largest 5000 volumes. They are open at all times except on Tuesdays and Fridays, and any one may enter and extract or copy the whole of any MS. The librarians, Hafiz Kutub, are very civil, and keep a catalogue of all the works in the library.

6. *Musafir hannay*, or hotels for the poor. To some of these, public baths are attached, which are open gratuitously.

To support these establishments must require large expenditures, and it is stated that they do in fact consume one-third of the land revenue. The annual income of St. Sophia, according to Tournefort, exceeds \$160,000. In some districts of the empire the entire revenue is appropriated to the support of particular mosques, and the inhabitants in consequence enjoy certain privileges, such as being exempt from having soldiers quartered upon them, from the extortions of pachas, &c. There are said to be two hundred ordinary mosques or djammis in Constantinople, besides three hundred chapels, or mesjids, some of which latter belong to private families. This confirms the opinion that the Turks are essentially a devotional people, more particularly when one sees not on one day of the week only, but every day, the crowds which are continually pressing into these temples to offer up their silent prayers.

The religious belief of the Turks is so peculiar and distinct from our own, that we hope a brief exposition of its leading doctrines, with a sketch of the life of its founder, will not be unacceptable to our readers. Indeed, a scheme of religion which is embraced by more than 150,000,000 of people, and which is even at the present moment extending its empire through the centre of Africa,\* cannot fail to excite much interest.

\* Landers' Africa.

At the time when Mohammed appeared, his countrymen professed chiefly the Sabian religion, which consisted in a belief of the Unity of God, in the limited duration of punishments, but chiefly in the adoration of the stars as the residence of mediating angels. They received the book of Psalms, and one in the Chaldee, which they called the book of Seth, whom they considered as the founder of their religion. They had many superstitious rites and observances, growing out of their worship of the stars, which they attempted to typify by monstrous images of stone and metal, and it was from this gross idolatry that Mohammed attempted to reclaim his countrymen. Not to found a new religion, as is commonly imputed to him, but to establish the only true and ancient one, professed by Adam, Noah, Abraham, and Jesus, and all the prophets; to weed out the corruptions and superstitions which the Jews and Christians had introduced; and to restore it to its original purity, which consisted chiefly in the worship of one only God. Such at least were his declared sentiments at the commencement, but, either deluded himself or wishing to delude others, as he became more successful, he avowed himself to be a messenger from the Deity. His able translator, Sales, thinks that the greatest misfortune of Mohammed was in not having a competent knowledge of the real and pure doctrines of the Christian religion, which in his time were so abominably corrupted, that it was not surprising he should have resolved to abolish what in his opinion it was impossible to reform. He is thus described by the pious and learned Spanheim:—"Mohammed was richly furnished with natural endowments, beautiful in his person, of a subtle wit, agreeable behaviour, showing liberality to the poor, courtesy to every one, fortitude against his enemies, and above all, a high reverence for the name of God. He was severe against the perjured, adulterers, murderers,

\* Hist. Ecclesiastica.

slanderers, prodigals, the covetous, false witnesses, &c. ; a great preacher of patience, charity, mercy, benevolence, gratitude, honouring of parents and superiors, and a frequent celebrater of the Divine praises."

The fact of his being an impostor should not blind us to his acknowledged merits, and upon the principle of giving a certain nameless gentleman his due, we are bound to accord Mohammed the merit of elevating in no inconsiderable degree the moral tone of his countrymen. It is known that he was no stranger to the history and character of our Saviour, and venerated him as a true prophet. In imitation of him he selected twelve of his friends, who were to have the same authority with the Christian apostles. The Turks generally acknowledge Christ as a prophet, and call us infidels because we do not believe in Mohammed, who according to their ideas was predicted by Moses, Deuteronomy xviii. 15, and the Comforter promised in John xvi. 17.

As long as he was weak in the number and influence of his followers, he preached forbearance and long-suffering ; and in his own person, when persecuted in one place, he fled to another rather than make resistance. But when he had acquired sufficient force to resist his enemies, he gave out that God had allowed him and his followers to defend themselves against infidels. The transition from defence to offence was easy. Using alternately the sword and pen he fought in twenty-seven battles, and his writings were received as revelations from the Deity throughout Arabia, even during his life. He died twenty-two years after he had declared his mission, with the proud consolation that he had succeeded in rooting out a senseless idolatry from the greater part of his country. That he was an impostor of no ordinary kind is generally admitted, but aside from this he appears to have been guilty of no greater crimes than were countenanced by the customs of the age. He certainly had many wives and concubines, but this was an oriental practice of the greatest antiquity, and too common

to be considered as either immoral or improper. The Koran expressly states that no man shall have more than four, whether wives or concubines; but it adds, "If ye fear that ye cannot act equitably towards so many, marry one only, or the slaves which ye shall acquire," and this we understand to be at present the usual practice among the better class of 'Turks. The poorer class must perforce be contented with one, for they can support no more. When this passage in the Koran was written, the Arabians commonly had eight or ten wives, and Mohammed restricted it within much narrower bounds. Mohammed was originally very poor, and throughout his life extremely illiterate. This his followers acknowledge to be true, and cite as an evidence of the divine inspiration of the Koran, for how otherwise, say they, could a composition so sublime have proceeded from an illiterate man. It is said (although the evidence is far from being clear) that he was assisted in its composition by a renegade monk; many parts of it however prove that Mohammed was well acquainted with the Old Testament. The phraseology, for instance, is a close imitation of the style of the prophets, and his night journey to heaven is an artful fiction, imitated from the ascent of Moses to Mount Sinai, by which he attempted to stamp his writings as authentic, and as emanating immediately from the Deity. That he claimed the power of performing miracles is stoutly denied by his disciples, and in fact he himself disclaims all such power in several parts of the Koran.

Of the Koran itself, or book in which his precepts are recorded, Savary, no mean judge, says, that it is the masterpiece of the Arabic language, which is fertile in fine writers, and this judgment has been confirmed by posterity. Mohammed himself appeals to its perfect elegance and purity as an evidence of its divine origin, and publicly challenges the most eloquent writers in Arabia (of which, in his time, there were many thousands) to produce a single chapter to compare with it. As it was written at different



times and under various circumstances, many discrepancies and contradictions appear in it, but the faithful maintain that these must be taken in an allegorical, and not in a literal sense. Like the Jews, they never touch their sacred volume without first washing themselves; but so far from thinking it profaned by translation, they have had it translated into Persian, Turkish, Javan, Malayan, and other languages.

Notwithstanding its pretensions to a divine origin, it is far from receiving the implicit belief of all the Osmanlis. There are examples in more recent times, even among the ulemah, of persons who have openly avowed their disbelief, and received the honours of martyrdom. D'Ohsson notices two cases of this kind which occurred at Constantinople in 1526 and 1602. It was disbelieved 200 years afterward by the Kalif Abdoolah III., who compelled most of the learned doctors and of his subjects to conform to his opinion. During his reign and that of his successor Mohammed III., the most cruel punishments were inflicted upon such of the ulemah as refused to deny the divine origin of the Koran. Under the head of blasphemy, according to the Turkish penal code, it is singular to notice that any one denying the divine mission of Moses or of Jesus Christ subjects himself to the penalty of death. We shall continue our remarks upon the religious opinions of the Turks in the succeeding chapter.

## CHAPTER XXXVI.

Emirs—Descendants of the Prophet—Religious Belief of the Mohammedans—Prayer—Alms—Pilgrimage to Mecca—Ablutions—Abstinence from Wine—Kindness to Animals—Gaming—Toleration—Unfairness exercised towards the Turks.

AMONG the various costumes of Constantinople, the eyes of the traveller are naturally attracted by persons who still retain the ancient Turkish dress, and whose heads are still disfigured by immense turbans of various fantastic forms, but of one uniform green colour. These are the celebrated emirs, or descendants of Fatima the daughter of the prophet, by Ali his disciple. Hence they are often called Alidays, or descendants of Ali. They have all genealogical charts to certify to the purity of their descent, but as there is no regular officer to verify their claims, it is believed that many have crept into the order in an improper manner, although, if detected, they are liable to fine and imprisonment. The law of descent authorizes one to be an emir either by the side of his father or mother, and this explains why they are so numerous. It is supposed that they form a thirtieth part of the Ottoman population. An emir is entitled to much consideration and respect, and their rank gives them personal advantages in every career into which they may choose to enter. They have a chief called *Nakeeb Eschraf*, who exercises almost sovereign authority over them, and decrees all punishments. The existence of this body has no doubt powerfully contributed to keep alive the spirit of Islamism among the people.

According to the masterly exposition of Sale, the religion of the Mohammedans, as inculcated in the Koran, is termed

by them Islam (resignation to the will of God), and hence we have the word Islamism. This is divided into two parts,—*Iman*, theory or faith, and *Din*, religion or practice. Under the first head is included a belief in God, in his angels, in his Scriptures, in the resurrection and day of judgment, and lastly in God's absolute decree and pre-determination both of good and evil. Under the second head, of religious observances or practices, are included several particulars which, as they seem to have been lightly passed over by former travellers, we think may be usefully inserted here. The first religious observance, and one to which the greatest importance is to be attached, is

*Prayer.* This Mohammed calls the pillar of religion and the key of paradise ; and when a certain tribe during his mission sent in their adhesion to him, renouncing their idols, but begging a dispensation from prayer, he nobly and firmly answered, "That there could be no good in that religion wherein there was no prayer." According to the creed of the Mussulmans, this is to be performed five times every twenty-four hours : 1, in the morning, forty minutes before sunrise ; 2, forty minutes after twelve at noon ; 3, twenty minutes after four ; 4 and 5, at any time between sunset and daybreak. These prayers are always silent, except upon great or solemn occasions in the mosques when they are repeated aloud. At the appointed time they break off all business, and, regardless of place or person, kneel and prostrate themselves in silent prayer. One of my acquaintances, whose business leads him frequently in contact with officers of this government, assures me that he has frequently been shown into their offices, and found them engaged in prayer. They would be perhaps surrounded by numerous persons waiting respectfully for the termination of their devotions. Those who are acquainted with the Turks will not accuse them of ostentation in these public demonstrations of piety. In prayer they have

adopted the practice of the early Christians,\* who worshipped with their faces towards the east, or the rising sun, and make it a point to pray in their ordinary clothes. It is probable that antecedent to the Christian era attention to the points of the compass was esteemed a point of religion. They are, indeed, called upon to divest themselves of all sumptuous dress or decorations, if they happen to have any on. This appears to be a proper and reasonable regulation, but we are inclined to believe that in our refined state of society such a provision would find but few advocates. Our churches on Sunday would not perhaps present such a gay spectacle, but a more devout and humble frame of mind would advantageously supply its place. Upon another point connected with prayer, the Turks, as we think, are entirely in the wrong, although supported by the authority of the early Christian fathers. We allude to the exclusion of women from the mosques during the hours assigned to prayer. According to the Koran, they are to perform their devotions at home, or in the mosques at hours when the men are not there. In several mosques and tekkeys we have remarked that a portion is latticed off for the exclusive use of the women; and, for the same reason, the Jewish and Greek churches have a similar partition. This appears to have been a very ancient practice in the Christian church; for Cyril, writing 350 years after Christ, says "that such was the arrangement in his church at Jerusalem." The Mohammedans argue, but as we apprehend very inconclusively, that the presence of women during prayer is incompatible with rigidly pure and pious worship, as it may inspire a different kind of devotion from that which is required in a place dedicated to the worship of the Deity. The pious Selden, although neither Mohammedan, Jew, nor Greek, is decidedly of the same opinion.†

\* Mosheim, Cent. 2, chap. iv.

† Ubicumque congregantur simul viri et femine ibi mens non est intenta et

*Alms.* The Turkish proverb, "All that you give you will carry with you," beautifully expresses their belief in the importance and efficacy of alms. The giving of alms is frequently impressed as one of the highest duties of the believer; and, we are told that at one time the practice was carried to such an extent as to produce a decree from the ulemah that not more than a fifth should be given to the poor. At present we are informed that it is upon an average about two and a half per cent. In no country in the world are beggars treated with more kindness and consideration than in Turkey, or their wants more speedily relieved. Poverty, in fact, appears to be a passport under which a beggar will not only thrust himself into the highest public offices, but even into the council chamber of the divan, with the certainty of having his wants relieved.

*Fasting.* This is another observance much insisted upon, and is not confined to simple abstinence from food alone, but is taken in an allegorical sense, to restrain the ears, eyes, and tongue from sin, to abstract the heart from worldly cares, and to refrain the thoughts from every thing but the Deity. They have one great annual fast during the Ramadan, which lasts from one new moon to the other, and is rigorously observed as long as the sun is above the horizon. It is a moveable fast, and, from the nature of the Mohammedan computation, which we have elsewhere explained, it passes in succession through every season of the year. When it occurs during the long days of summer, it bears with great severity upon the labouring classes, but they never flinch from its strict observance even at the risk of life itself. There are, however, exceptions made in favour of women who nurse their children, aged persons, the sick,

*devota; nam inter celebrandum et sacrificia feminæ et viri, mutuis aspectibus signis ac nutibus accendunt pravorum appetitum et desiderium suorum ignes; et quando hoc non feret saltem humana fragilitas dilectatur mutuo et reciproco aspectu et ita non potest esse mens quieta, attenta et devota.*  
*—Selden de Synædriis Vett Hebræor. Apud Sales.*

and the infirm. To compensate for this, the sick upon their recovery are bound to fast an equal number of days.

*Pilgrimage to Mecca.* This is expressly commanded by the Koran, although many excuse themselves on the score of poverty, and the wealthier classes frequently employ a substitute, who performs the journey on their behalf. The person who has made this pilgrimage ever afterward receives the title of Hadji, although a visit to Jerusalem confers the same sacred title. This observance is only to be paralleled with that of the early Christian church, where, from a misinterpretation of a passage in the Apocalypse, the practice of making a pilgrimage to Jerusalem came into vogue, and during the tenth and eleventh centuries was almost universal. It is difficult to conceive for what especial purpose Mohammed inculcated this practice, unless we suppose it to have been imitated from the Jewish pilgrimage. The particular object of veneration at Mecca is the *kabaa*, or black stone, which, from the various descriptions given of it by Ali Bey, Burckhardt, and others, is a fragment of porphyry, although its history would lead one to suspect it to be an acrolite.

*Ablutions.* These are to be daily practised before every prayer, and likewise upon extraordinary occasions, and they are in fact most scrupulously observed. "Water," observes the worthy Agapida,\* "is more necessary to these infidels than bread, making use of it in repeated daily ablutions enjoined by their damnable religion, employing it in baths, and in a thousand other idle and extravagant modes of which *we Spaniards and Christians* make little account." These continual ablutions are not taken in a literal sense alone, but are applied to cleansing the members of the body from all wickedness and unjust actions, and the heart from all secret vicious inclinations. In all these senses Mohammed declares the practice of religion to be founded on cleanliness, in which he coincides

\* *Chronicles of Grenada.*

with Shaftesbury, who argues that a virtuous man must necessarily be a cleanly one; and even the pious Wesley seems to have entertained similar ideas with the great Arabian reformer, when he declares cleanliness to be akin to godliness, founded, perhaps, on the exhortation of Paul, "Let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God."

Independent of these fundamental articles of religious practice, there are various others which may be considered of minor importance, although they are, notwithstanding, most scrupulously observed.

One of the most striking of these is abstinence from wine and all strong liquors. They carry their notions on this subject so far as to hold it unlawful not merely to taste wine, but to make it, to buy or to sell it, or even to maintain themselves with the moneys arising from the sale of that liquor. There are, of course, among them some free-thinkers and free livers who indulge in rum, but, as far as our observation has extended, the number is quite limited. The most scrupulous, indeed, refrain not only from the use of wine, but also from coffee and tobacco. It is perhaps in reference to this that the sultan, as the head of the church, is said never to use tobacco. If Mohammed, as is commonly believed, copied his restrictions from the Jews, he seems to have made an improvement upon the Levitical law, which merely forbids the use of wine and strong drinks to the priests when they are about to enter the tabernacle of the congregation. So general and so strong is the dislike to the use of spirituous liquors among the Turks, that we know of several Europeans in their service who carefully abstain from drinking when they are about to transact business with the officers of government, lest their breath should reveal the fact. If our praiseworthy associations for promoting temperance should be in want of a patron saint, we know of none who comes furnished with stronger recommendations than Mohammed.

Kindness to the brute creation is also frequently recommended in the Koran, and the traveller in this country has many pleasing proofs of the scrupulousness with which these commands are obeyed. The harbour of Constantinople is covered at many seasons with millions of wild fowl, which just paddle out of the reach of the oar, seemingly aware that they will not be injured. The open boats into which grain is discharged are literally covered with ringdoves, and the devout Mussulman scarcely dreams of even driving them gently away. This kind feeling extends to the whole brute creation, even to dogs (although regarded as unclean), and is not confined to the ox which treadeth out the corn, or which has fallen into the pit on the Sabbath day.

Placing money out at interest is also declared to be unlawful, but we were unable to procure any definite information as to the extent to which it is carried. They pay twenty or thirty per cent. per annum for whatever sums they borrow of the Armenians, but, as we learn, have no idea of mercantile punctuality as practised among a commercial people. They also abstain, like the Jews, from the flesh of swine, the blood of any animal, or the meat of any animal which has died a natural death. Unlike the Jews, however, they eat without scruple the flesh of camels. Circumcision, although nowhere mentioned in the Koran, is frequently practised, but, if we are correctly informed, it is far from being general, and is, in fact, falling into disuse.

Gaming is severely reprobated in the Koran, and under this head is included, not only that particular species of gaming formerly much in vogue among the Arabs, in which all the winnings were distributed among the poor, but every other kind of game, whether with dice, cards, or otherwise. A Scotch traveller, who has written an amusing romance about Turkey, alludes frequently to the prevalent passion for gaming; but, during our residence here, we have witnessed nothing of the kind, unless he alludes



to a game resembling our chess, which is not a game of hazard, but of skill, and which is rarely played for money. That voracious traveller has in all probability mistaken Greeks for Turks, and imputed to the latter the notorious propensities of the Hellenic race; it would not be the most serious mistake which he has committed in the course of his work.

Such is a brief sketch of the religious creed and practice of the Mohammedans, which, however it may vary in different countries, in the main agrees with all the above particulars; and although it cannot be compared in point of excellence with the divine precepts of our own religion, yet enough has been said to correct the idle and erroneous notions generally entertained respecting it. Although it is the religion of the state, other creeds are allowed; and it would be difficult to point out the most enlightened country of Christendom where there exists a more perfect toleration. Of the influence of Islamism upon the actions and lives of its professors we have already treated, and it only remains to add that its direct tendency is to counteract and mitigate the severity of despotic governments, which in the East have always found a congenial soil. It produces an equalizing effect, and is in fact a sort of religious republicanism, only extending much further than in our country, where a difference of complexion is fatal. It ennobles all who profess it, and furnishes an absolute title to any office short of the throne itself. The Christian reader of the Koran will be gratified to find how closely its moral precepts coincide with those of the New Testament, from which indeed much of it is copied. The Koran inculcates that God at various times had made known his will to several prophets, such as Moses, David, Jesus, and Mohammed. As a consequence, the Pentateuch, the Psalms, the Gospels, and the Koran are inspired writings; but it is contended that the three former have been so much corrupted by Jews and Christians, that although they may contain some part of the word

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of God, little credit can be given to them, from the impossibility of separating the genuine parts from the false interpolations.

It is unnecessary to resort to the odium theologicum to account for the unfairness and bitterness with which the Mohammedan religion has been treated by Christian Europe. When the Turks made their first appearance in Europe, it was in the character of a bold, sanguinary, and fanatical people, carrying death and devastation in their progress; and whatever may have been their real object, their avowed intention was to extend the religion of the crescent. Animated with this sentiment, they fought with a desperation bordering upon phrensy, and their opponents had no other resource than to encourage a similar excitement in favour of the cross. A blind fanatical fury on both sides rendered the struggle long and bloody; quarter was rarely asked or given, and if prisoners were occasionally preserved, they were reduced to slavery. The superior military skill of the Turks prevailed; and their adversaries slowly and sullenly retiring before them, wasted in impotent libels that deadly animosity which they could no longer exhibit in the field.

On the other hand, the character of the early Christians with whom they came in contact was not calculated to impress upon them a very exalted idea of their religion. It was on the occasion of the crusades that their regions were suddenly invaded by a horde of infuriated wretches from Europe; "infamous in crime and brutal in desire, a wicked and blood-thirsty multitude, whose absence was a blessing to the land they left;" such at least is the character given of the first crusaders by one of their most eloquent apologists.\* A delusive halo of glory has been thrown around some of the chiefs of the subsequent crusades; but the impartial reader will be inclined to regard them all as so

\* James's History of Chivalry and the Crusades, p. 77.

many ferocious beasts, from Boemond, who roasted Turks alive before a slow fire, and afterward ate them,\* to the cruel and fanatical St. Louis. Disputatious about trifles, they utterly neglected the important precepts of our divine religion; attaching the highest value to mere forms and ceremonies, they neglected the essentials; and while their lips professed the most sincere piety, their lives were stained with every variety of the foulest crimes. Believing as the Turks did in a simple system of religion, which was based upon the ruins of a splendid idolatry, how could they view otherwise than with contempt a religious faith, which at that period was unaccompanied by practice, and burthened and disgraced by the most childish and impious mummeries? Had the Europeans of that time resembled our modern enlightened and tolerant Christians, the bigotry of the Turks would eventually have been softened, a mutual respect would have grown up, and the world would not have witnessed the scandalous continuity of libels which has been for so long a time poured forth against a kind, simple-hearted, and virtuous people.

\* James's History of Chivalry and the Cruaades, p. 139.

## CHAPTER XXXVII.

**Madhouse—Condition of the Insane—Great Improvement—Hospitals—  
Aqueduct of Valens—Still conducts Water, but in a different manner—  
Separate trading Districts—Pipes—Bayssesteens—Khennah—Soormay—  
Turkish Indian Summer—Climate—Healthfulness of Constantinople.**

IN the course of our rambles through the city to-day, we accidentally stumbled upon the *Timar hannay*, or mad-house. Through a low portal we entered an open court, around which were arranged a number of cells looking into the court through windows secured by strong iron gratings. There were about thirty poor wretches thus exposed to the gaze of idle curiosity, but the respect universally paid in the East to those labouring under this most appalling of all maladies, protects them from the unfeeling taunts and gibes, which under similar circumstances they receive among the more humane and civilized nations of the West. They were chiefly in a state of furious madness, which the continual presence of so many strangers must tend to aggravate. It was enough to excite the deepest feelings of commiseration to see the condition of these wrecks of humanity, and to feel that under the present system there was not the slightest hope of their restoration to reason. They had no bedding, and in fact no attention whatever appeared to be paid to their wants or even their necessities. They were chiefly in a state approaching to nudity, with a heavy iron chain secured round their waists, which passed through the gratings of their windows, and was fastened to a stout iron staple on the wall outside. Some rattled their chains fiercely at us as we passed, others regarded us with a moody scowl, while some implored of

us a few paras in the name of Allah. The gratuities thus distributed, and a trifling fee paid to the porter at the gate, are said to be all these miserable beings have to subsist upon. This we cannot believe, for the honour of our common nature, and because it is at utter variance with the general humanity and kindness of the Turkish character. Travellers, we are rather inclined to suppose, have mistaken the animal voracity of madmen for the ordinary cravings of hunger, and have accordingly borrowed a little oriental hyperbole, in order to paint a highly-wrought picture of human misery. The actual state of things is bad enough without resorting to exaggeration, and I left the place with the feeling that I had witnessed a madhouse resembling those which were the disgrace of Europe during the last century.\*

The hospitals of Constantinople are said to be numerous, as well as the infirmaries and almshouses for the maintenance of aged and decayed individuals. We had repeatedly inquired of our Frank acquaintances for directions to visit them, but were uniformly answered that the Turks had no establishment of the kind; this was ascertained to be, as usual, incorrect. There are, however, no civil hospitals upon a similar footing with ours, but there are infirmaries attached to every mosque, in which are received the sick and the poor of the district.

Besides these, the Greeks, Armenians, Jews, French, and English have separate hospitals for their respective nations. We walked one morning through the Greek hospital, accompanied by the chief physician, Dr. Giovanni. It is a substantial stone building, two stories in height, situated in one of the filthiest spots of filthy Galata. It contains thirty wards, ten feet by twelve, and each holding

\* One of the Turkish newspapers recently received, contains the pleasing information that this establishment has been suppressed, and its inmates distributed among various hospitals in the city, where they now receive every attention, and the requisite medical and moral treatment.

three beds. Five of these wards are appropriated to female patients, but they were entirely empty. Two other wards are assigned to what are called suspicious cases, that is to say, for such as are suspected of being cases of plague. Here they are kept until the characteristic symptoms of the disease have had sufficient time to show themselves, when they are either removed to other wards or sent to the plague hospital.

There were several of these suspicious cases when we made our visit, but they seemed to be nothing more than ordinary cases of common fever. Dr. G. informed us that intermittents were very rare here, and that all the cases are sent into the city from the adjoining villages. The most prevalent diseases just now are inflammatory affections of the chest and bowels, which readily yield to the ordinary treatment. Besides these we saw the usual variety of diseases, such as dropsies, rheumatism, &c., which offered nothing peculiar in their treatment, except that leeches appeared to be rather indiscriminately applied. There were fifty patients, most of whom were convalescent; this was the more surprising when we remarked the general filthy condition of the hospital, with every window carefully closed in order to exclude the air. The silly and useless practice of fumigating the wards by burning aromatic herbs is resorted to, but this, as is well known, merely renders foul air less disagreeable to the smell, and can be of little service in changing its nature. It was ludicrous to see us following in the wake of our medical friend, whose huge bearskin calpak was enveloped in smoke, while the attendants preceded us bearing brasiers filled with smoking herbs, and carefully fumigated every ward before it was supposed to be in a proper condition to receive us. With many thanks to the doctor for his polite attentions, we left the hospital, highly impressed with the important part which nature performs in the cure of disease.

At no great distance from the Timar hannay, we passed under the aqueduct of Valens; a conspicuous feature in the picture of Constantinople, when viewed from the heights of Pera or from the Golden Horn. It is said to have been erected in the fourth century by the Emperor Valens; a part of this is still remaining, and its mouldering walls and ivied arches attest its antiquity. Another portion of this aqueduct, consisting of a double row of forty arches, is of later date, having been rebuilt by Solyman the Magnificent. From a street which passes under one of the arches of the most ancient part of the aqueduct, a narrow and crooked flight of steps led us to the summit, from whence we enjoyed a magnificent and novel view of the city beneath us, with the harbour, the Ayoub suburb, the heights of Pera, and the channel of the Bosphorus. A narrow pathway may be followed along the top of this aqueduct, nearly a mile in length, and almost choked up by laurels, blackberries, and wild figs. It is a venerable ruin, and although it no longer transmits water in the usual manner, yet by using it for a system of sooterays, as we have before explained, it conveys an abundant supply of that important element through various parts of the city.

In the course of our rambles, we passed through many streets occupied by artisans, and had occasion to notice the different districts allotted to each occupation. In this particular the stranger is forcibly reminded of the various *fora* or market-places, for the sale of different articles in ancient Rome. We passed in succession the district where pipes are sold, the shoe, confectionary, copper, wood-turning, cap, and various other districts. The mechanic arts appear to be at a low ebb, to judge from the specimens around us. The blacksmith's work is exceedingly coarse and imperfect; the cabinet-maker would deem it absurd to attempt to make a perfect joint; the turner works with an ordinary hand bow, while his toes afford him no inconsiderable assistance;

and the shoemaker supplies, by means of paste, gum, and plaster, the deficiencies of his thread. The trades in which the greatest proficiency is displayed are the coppersmiths, wood-carvers, and pipe-makers. The culinary utensils of the Turks, and indeed of all the Eastern nations, are chiefly of copper,\* and the business of the coppersmiths is consequently very extensive. Fine castings of brass are well executed, and their brass cannon, for taste and beauty of finish, will compare with those of any nation in Europe. The carvers in wood, for whose productions also there is a great demand, execute their work, which consists chiefly of fruits, flowers, and arabesques, with great taste and ingenuity.

In no article, perhaps, do the Turks display more ostentation and extravagance than in their pipes. This is carried so far, that for a single amber head we have known the sum of \$300 to be paid, and have heard even a larger sum mentioned. The fictitious value assigned to amber may perhaps be owing in part to its scarcity, but it is also supposed to possess the peculiar property of not conveying infection as it passes from one mouth to another. The rank and station of an individual are in some degree measured by the length of his pipe-stem, which must be of

\* These utensils, when broken, worn out, or otherwise injured, form no inconsiderable item in the list of articles exported to the United States. A sentimental writer on the affairs of Greece, in one of our popular reviews, has unluckily seized upon this subject to excite the public sympathy. "We have seen on the wharves of Boston the household utensils of brass and copper, gathered up from the desolate hearths of the butchered Sciotes, bought as old copper in Smyrna, and as such sent to this country. Does not this bring home to our minds a picture of distress to awaken the deepest sympathy?" We are far from the wish to underrate the actual sufferings of the Greeks during their bloody struggle for freedom, but we must protest, in the name of good taste as well as of truth, against such attempts to awaken public sympathy. If the writer is thus affected by the sight of old Turkish pots and kettles, what would be his feelings if he could see the bales of old rags which are daily landed on the wharves of New-York, and which must have been stripped from the backs of the starving Italians.



cherry or jessamine of the natural growth. Thus the diplomatic length of a pipe-stem belonging to an officer of the court cannot be less than six feet; a merchant or trader may sport a chibook of four feet; while a *caikgee*, or waterman, solaces himself with a twelve or eighteen inch tube.

In speaking of the bazars, we had occasion to notice the *baysesteens*, which were originally cloth-markets, but are now devoted to other purposes. They are distinguished from the ordinary bazar by the superior elegance and solidity of their construction. One of these, which is called the Egyptian baysesteen, is filled with drugs and die-stuffs. Here is sold the celebrated oriental cosmetic *khennah*. This consists of the finely powdered leaves of a shrub which is extensively cultivated in Egypt and Morocco, the *Lawsonia inermis*. To judge by the quantity exposed for sale in this place the consumption must be enormous; for it is not confined exclusively to the Turkish women, but is also occasionally used by Armenians, Jews, and Greeks. It is well known that this plant is employed to give to the fingers and even toes an artificial colour, which is thought to be highly beautiful. From a Greek lady, who acknowledged that she had in her younger days made free use of this cosmetic, we obtained the following information. The *khennah* is steeped in wine for several days, and is then applied in its wet state around the fingers and toes, where it is secured by a wrapper of vine-leaves. The patient, for so she may be called, is then put to bed, and on the following morning the dressings are removed, and the operation is finished. The fashionable reddish-yellow stain has appeared, and lasts several weeks. It is absurd to pronounce upon a subject so capricious as taste; but to our unpractised eyes this stain appeared very much as if the hands had been employed in the delicate operation of tarring ropes; of this resemblance, however, the Turkish ladies are unfortunately ignorant. This attempt to alter and improve what nature has already

made beautiful, like the long nails of the Chinese, or the gloves of Europeans, is intended, no doubt, to convey the idea that the hands thus artificially distinguished have never been degraded by manual labour. In Constantinople we have noticed the palms of little children thus discoloured, in addition to the ordinary finger and toe marks. The maximum of beauty is supposed to be attained when the nails are about half-grown. At this period the contrast between the discoloured portion of the nail and the new part forms the peculiar distinctive characteristic of the oriental fashionable lady. The khennah, used with a mordant, is also extensively used as an excellent dye for woollens and cottons. Another cosmetic, which is called *soormay*, a composition of antimony and gall-nuts, is used to enlarge and lengthen the eyebrows. Although the effect is singular, yet it certainly gives additional brilliancy and lustre to the eyes, for which it is no doubt intended.

We are now in the middle of October, and the weather has been thus far delightful. The thermometer for the last three months has never fallen below 67°, and the greatest elevation has been 82°; but this only occurred twice during this period. From a register of the weather which was carefully kept in our apartments, the mean temperature has been 73°, and we have had but five days of rain. Within the last three days we have been visited by a severe storm, accompanied by cold and furious blasts from the north. There is said to have been a snow-storm on the Black Sea, and the wrecks of two vessels have been driven ashore near the mouth of the Bosphorus, all hands having perished. This is the season when a violent storm usually occurs, after which we are promised a continuance of fine weather, termed by the Franks here *le petit été de St. Martin*, which from their description must correspond somewhat to our Indian summer.

Constantinople, it will be recollected, is nearly in the same parallel of latitude with New-York, but it enjoys a much

finer climate ; for orange-trees live in the open air during the whole winter, and the olive is enabled to withstand the slight frosts which occasionally occur during that period of the year. The climate is truly delightful, and I know of no spot on the globe more healthy : situated between two seas, the sultry effects of the south winds are tempered in summer by the cool breezes from the Euxine ; and on the other hand, during winter, the cold northern blasts are neutralized by the warm breezes from the Sea of Marmora and the Egean.

In my frequent visits to the hospitals I was unable to ascertain what diseases were peculiar to the place, and the physicians themselves could not particularize any one disease. A recent traveller, apparently an invalid, condemns the climate of Constantinople as impure and unhealthy ; but unfortunately cites the thick impervious forests of Belgrade, with their bendts, as the cause. These are eighteen miles distant, and would be about as efficient in producing disease at Constantinople as the marshes about Elizabethtown or Bristol in affecting the health of New-York or Philadelphia. Another traveller, Neale, asserts that Constantinople is the most unhealthy place under heaven, and attributes it to the low shores of the Propontis, which, by the way, are not marshy, at least near the capital. To confirm this random assertion, he begs us to contemplate the low grounds of Bithynia (sixty miles from Constantinople), the Lake of Nicca (only eighty miles distant), and the fertile swampy valleys at the foot of Mount Olympus, which are about one hundred miles from Constantinople. Mac Farlane asserts that strangers are sure to pay a tribute of sickness on their arrival or shortly after, and then mentions that a party of Englishmen, who had made their journey from India by land, all fell sick after their arrival at Pera. The sudden change of habits and in their mode of living would be sufficient, one would imagine, to derange the system, without

the necessity of imputing to the capital any particular unhealthiness.

From our own observations and the information derived from the physicians resident here, we should be inclined to believe that, with the exception of the two great epidemics, cholera and plague, few places can be found more exempt from disease than this capital.

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## CHAPTER XXXVIII.

Proposition to establish a Turkish Newspaper—Speculations—Death of the Selictar Agha—Coronation of Sultan—Decapitation of a Malefactor—Placard declaring his Crime—Expertness of Turkish Executioners—Turkish Bulletin—Revolt and capture of Davoud Pacha—His Pardon—Revolt in Albania—Affair of Van.

THE diplomatic circles here are quite in a ferment on the subject of a newspaper which it is said the government purposes to establish. To judge from what we hear, it would seem that the sultan is about to attempt a rash and hazardous enterprise. One set maintains that it will be filled with falsehoods, another that it will be insufferably stupid, and all concur in asserting that there is no occasion for it whatever. The true secret of this unanimity of opinion is, that it will expose and most effectually counteract the numerous silly falsehoods and scandalous inventions which are sent through Europe every post-day from Constantinople. The corps diplomatique forms here a numerous body, that of Russia alone being composed of at least ninety members, and the other embassies in like proportion. Most of these have nothing to do, and accordingly exercise their inventive faculties for the amusement of their friends and correspondents at home. The Frank merchants, too, are not far behind the diplomatists in their fondness for

retailing petty gossip, which always accompanies their circulars and price currents. We were once shown a letter from a merchant at Constantinople to his correspondent, in which he had contrived to enliven some dry speculation about the price of opium and silk, with a sprightly anecdote of his neighbour's wife, and a broad insinuation that Miss —, in the next street, was no better than she should be.

The newspaper is to be published weekly in Turkish and French, and the price \$6,66 per annum. It is said, but we repeat it only as a Frank story, that the government have adopted the following mode in order to give it extensive circulation. All the officers of government are, of course, obliged to subscribe, who alone make no inconsiderable number. Then, the rayahs are expected to contribute their share, and this is managed in the following manner. The Armenian patriarch, for instance, is notified that in order to aid this national object, he must find two hundred subscribers among his *nation*, and forward the subscription list as early as possible. The same notifications are sent to the Greeks and Jews, varying the number according to the supposed capability of the *nation* to pay. By these various means it is said that they have already secured two thousand subscribers.

A procession of state barges attracted our attention this afternoon as we were crossing the Golden Horn, and we learn that it is the funeral of the Selictar Agha who died yesterday of an attack of apoplexy. This personage is the sword-bearer of the sultan, and one of the highest officers of state. His ostensible employment is to carry the sword of state before the sultan on days of ceremony, but, like many other court officers in Europe, he contrives to pick up a little here and there, and manages to support himself and family. The individual just deceased is reported to have been the richest subject in the empire. His property is reputed to have amounted to eight millions of dollars, and one of the evidences of his wealth is stated to be the

possession of five hundred Cashmere shawls, varying in value from eight to fifteen hundred dollars. Among other reforms of the sultan, that of abolishing useless and burthensome offices is one of the most conspicuous, and he has accordingly expressed his determination not to appoint a successor to the office. All his vast wealth goes of course to the sultan, who will grant out of it annuities to his wives and children. The remains of the Selictar Agha are appropriately deposited near the mosque of *Ayoub*, at the head of the Golden Horn, where the coronation of the sultan takes place upon his accession to the throne. The ceremony is said to be of a simple but imposing nature. Accompanied by all his officers of state, the sultan proceeds to this mosque, when, after an appropriate address to the Deity, the *Sheik islam*, or head of the church and of the law, girds on the sultan the consecrated scimitar of his ancestors, repeating an ancient formula purporting that he must receive this weapon with confidence, for that it is a gift from the Deity put into his hands to protect the empire from the infidels. In this mosque are interred the remains of a holy mussulman martyr named *Eyoub* or Job, and this spot is supposed to be the Hebdomon or place of coronation of the Greek emperors.

Although numerous fires have occurred during our residence here, and repeated public executions are said to have taken place in consequence, yet we have never been able to witness any thing of the kind, although we have almost daily traversed the city in all directions. To-day, however, we saw a decapitated corpse lying in the street with its stomach downward and the head placed between its legs. From the dress and appearance of the head it was evidently a Greek, and a large placard over it in Turkish explained the nature of his crime. A Frank passing by informed us that it was the body of an incendiary, and we should have been satisfied with this explanation, had we not afterward succeeded in obtaining the placard which is

now in our possession. The following translation of this *yafiah*, as it is termed, will give an idea of this oriental inscription, which reminds one of the ancient *τιτλας*, or superscription over the heads of malefactors.

“The traitors Demetri, Stavri, and Yanni, passengers on board a Turkish vessel commanded by the Reis Bartinleh Ibrahim bound to Constantinople, assassinated in the night the said captain and six others of the crew. Having committed this horrid crime, they plundered the vessel, sunk her, and escaped to land. They were speedily arrested by the musselim (governor) of the Sandjak, or district of *Viran Chehr*, and forwarded to this imperial residence. Here they were examined according to legal forms before the tribunal of justice, and, after their own confession, were declared guilty of the enormous crime which they had committed. Sovereign justice has accordingly thought proper to inflict the necessary punishment by depriving them of a life stained by such atrocious villanies. It is therefore for these causes that *Stavri* (whose body is here exposed) has been punished, as well as his two accomplices, in order to serve as an example to malefactors.”

It appears that the crime was perpetrated in the Black Sea some fifteen or eighteen months since, but as Turkish justice awaits the confession of the criminal, their punishment has been delayed until the present time. Upon a close examination of the neck, it was ascertained that the head must have been separated at a single blow. In the use of the *handjia*, a short curved sword, with its edge on the concave side, the Turkish executioners are said to be extremely expert. An individual was pointed out to us who had attained considerable distinction in this line, and it was asserted of him that he has frequently, at a single blow, cut through the bodies of four sheep suspended in a row. This feat appears to surpass that described by Scott in his novel of the Crusaders.

We were shown this evening the first printed bulletin

ever issued by the Turkish government. It relates to the revolt of Davoud Pacha, the governor of Bagdad, which has at length been suppressed after nearly a year's resistance. It appears from this bulletin that Davoud Pacha had loaded the people of his pachalik with so many ruinous taxes, that strong remonstrances were made by the Sublime Porte, and to give them greater effect, one of the ministers, a former deftandar or secretary of the treasury, was sent to visit him in prison and communicate the ulterior orders of the sultan. Whether he had received information of the real objects of the visit of Sadik effendi from some of his friends at court, or, whether he only surmised that the messenger was commissioned to ask of him the trifling loan of his head, is not known; the fact, however, is stated in the bulletin that upon the arrival of the ex-secretary, Davoud took off his head on the very night of his arrival. When the news of this summary procedure arrived at Constantinople, many pipes were smoked and numerous cups of coffee were drunk by the council before they could come to a conclusion as to what step should be taken next. To save expense to the government, it was determined to employ the neighbouring pacha of Aleppo to put down Davoud, and as a reward for his services if successful, the governments of Bagdad and Diarbekir were to be annexed to that of Aleppo. Stimulated by these promises, Ali Pacha of Aleppo collected together a body of toops, and aided by Cassim Pacha, governor of Mosul, put to flight a numerous body of the troops of Davoud, and forced them to retreat upon Bagdad, where they were followed up by Cassim, who sent into the city an imperial decree proclaiming a general amnesty for all past transactions. The populace eagerly embraced the terms, and Davoud would, in all probability have soon been given up, had he not resorted to an act which is almost unparalleled in the annals of treachery. One of the chief magistrates of the city wrote a letter to Cassim Pacha, that he had, with the assistance of the inhabitants, made prisoner of Davoud,



and held him at the disposition of the sultan. At the same time he expressed his desire to give up to him the government of the city. Trusting to this apparently frank offer, Cassim entered the city with a suite of one hundred attendants, and proceeded to the governor's palace. He had scarcely been seated, when the palace was surrounded by the troops of Davoud, and Cassim, his chief officers, and nearly his whole escort, were put to death.

Upon receiving this intelligence, Ali Pacha of Aleppo proceeded to Bagdad, which he invested on the 7th of July and summoned Davoud to surrender. To this no reply was made except by a series of sorties upon the troops of the sultan. At length, after a siege of seventy days, Ali stormed and took possession of Bagdad. The rebellious Davoud was taken prisoner, and, strange as it may seem, instead of being put to death on the spot, was sent under an escort to Constantinople.

The subsequent history of this treacherous miscreant either proves the lenity of the Turkish government, or that he had amassed sufficient wealth to purchase a pardon for himself and family. He was exiled to Brusa, delightfully situated on the slope of Mount Olympus, and one of the most agreeable abodes in the whole Turkish empire.

The government have now to deal with but two other refractory provinces, namely, that of Albania and of Van; but the whole system is so vitiated, that an insurrection is no sooner quelled in one place than it breaks out in another, as we have already mentioned. The rebellion of Mustapha Pacha of Scutari has carried desolation through the province of Albania, and it is conceived to be of so serious a nature that the grand vizier himself has been obliged to take the field. The latest news purports that a battle has taken place near Janina, in which the troops under the son of the grand vizier succeeded in defeating the Albanians with great loss, and pursued them to Premetia. After a

siege of twenty-five days, the Pronyos, as the people of this district are called, surrendered; thirty of the most considerable personages were sent as hostages to Salonika, and eighteen to the public Bagnio of Constantinople.

The affair of Van is of a different nature. Groaning under the tyranny and the exactions of Timour Pacha, the inhabitants made a statement of their sufferings to the sultan, which upon examination was found to be in accordance with truth. Timour was dismissed, and ordered to repair to the place of his exile. He, however, preferred resistance to submission, and has accordingly shut himself up in the fortress of Van, where he bids defiance to the troops and the orders of his sovereign.

The present sultan has attempted to curb the rapacity of his pachas, but hitherto without effect. He wished to separate the civil and military power, and to allow fixed salaries, but the manœuvres of his court have hitherto been too powerful to allow him to carry these wise and necessary measures into execution.

## CHAPTER XXXIX.

Scutari superior to Constantinople in several respects.—Population—Mosque of Selim III.—Silk-weavers—Process of raising Silk—Printing of coarse Cottons—Printing-press—Caravans of Pilgrims—Cemetery—Turkish Horsemanship—Visit to a Greek Family—Greek Song—Superiority over their Fellow-countrymen of the Morea.

IN order to reach Scutari from Constantinople, it is necessary to ascend the Bosphorus as high as Beschik Tash, and then the current sweeps you to the opposite side. On the passage we noticed a large building near Scutari, which is a public granary: here and in similar buildings is stored all the grain required for the metropolis. In imitation of the ancients, grain is a government monopoly, and this system is one of the most effectual that could possibly be devised to keep the people in a state of abject poverty. The government and the various officers intrusted with its management all contrive to make money out of it as it passes through their hands; while the poor cultivator is, perhaps, entirely deprived of the fruits of his honest industry. It is inconceivable how far rapacity blinds them to the true interests of the country. If these granaries were burnt to the ground—if every man could bring his grain to the city, and sell it at the best price—the city would be far better supplied, and at a cheaper rate. But it is not the price of grain alone which is thus improperly attempted to be regulated by law. Every article of food has a fixed price, whether sold by wholesale or retail; and from the lordly dealer in oil, down to the humble vender of roasted chest-

nuts, all are liable to fine, imprisonment, bastinado, or decapitation, for the least infraction of the law.\*

The streets of Scutari afford a strong contrast with those of the capital, being wide and airy, and apparently laid out with much more regularity. Its ancient name Chrysopolis, or city of gold, was given to it when occupied by the Persians, who used it not only as a place for arms, but also as a depôt for the gold and silver which they levied upon the towns and cities of Asia. Its position on the gentle slope of a hill, which descends towards the Bosphorus and overlooks the Sea of Marmora, would be considered as eminently beautiful, and would attract more general admiration, were it not for its vicinity to that magnificent city and harbour which is without its parallel in the world. Comparing its apparent size with that of Constantinople, we should be inclined to assign to Scutari a population of 80,000. It is almost exclusively inhabited by Turks; and the neatness and order which prevail in the place strikingly contrast with the quarters solely occupied by the filthy Franks of Galata and Pera.

\* The following tariff of prices, which was published during my residence in 1831, may amuse the reader; but if he is disposed to consider it as a proof of the barbarism of Turkey, he should be reminded that the same thing exists to a greater or less extent in the most civilized countries of Europe: even in New-York we only got rid of the absurd assize of bread a few years ago.

		Wholesale.	Retail.			Wholesale.	Retail.
Oil	- per oke	12 cts.	12½	Flour, 1st. quality	4½ cts.	5	
Soap	- - -	11½	12	Do. 2d.	- - -	3½	4
Meat	- - -	-	9	Wheat	- - -	4½	4½
Cheese	- - -	12	13½	Starch	- - -	10½	11½
Butter	- - -	19½	20½	Onions	- - -	1	1½
Honey	- - -	13½	15	Garlic	- - -	3½	3½
Vermicelli	- - -	7½	8½	Candles	- - -	20½	21½
Pease	- - -	2½	2½	Salt	- - -	½	½
Beans	- - -	3	4	Grapes	- - -	2½	3
Lentils	- - -	2½	3½	Greens	- - -	½	½
Olives	- - -	5½	6	Eggs per hundr.	65	-	60

The oke is 2½ lbs.

Passing the mosque of Selim III., a superb edifice in the centre of a spacious court, we ascended to the upper part of the town, whence the eye takes in at a glance the whole Sea of Marmora, the snowy tops of Olympus, and a great part of the windings of the Bosphorus. In this quarter we found the numerous silk-weavers, whose gorgeous and costly productions have never been equalled in Europe. They are all separate establishments, and as far as we could ascertain are managed and controlled by private individuals. Most of the silk is derived from all that region bordering on the eastern and southern shores of the Sea of Marmora, of which Brusa may be considered as the capital.

The eggs are brought to Brusa in April, when they are sold by weight to the purchasers. They are spread upon linen cloths, or kept under the arms, or in the bosom, until hatched, which takes place in a few days. The room is then strewed with branches of the mulberry; first feeding them with the tenderest leaves, and as they grow older they continue to add branches every day until they reach nearly to the top of the room. In the course of ten or twelve days they become torpid, or fall asleep, and continue in this state three or four days; they then awake, and continue to eat and sleep alternately for about six weeks, when they begin to climb. Dry oak branches, properly trimmed and prepared for this purpose, are then set upright on the pile; they ascend these, and commence making their cocoons. Those intended for seed are permitted to remain twenty days, when they are laid on a cloth; a butterfly then issues forth, lays its eggs, and dies: the eggs are kept in a cool place until the following spring, when they are sent to market for sale. The cocoons intended for use are merely exposed to the sun, although in Syria they are thrown into hot water: the object of both operations is to destroy the animal within. We have been assured by the respectable traveller to whom we are indebted for these details, that

during the season of rearing the silk-worm it is almost impossible to obtain in these districts any shelter or accommodation. Every part of the house, even to the bed-rooms and garrets, is filled with these animals and their requisite food. The business of unwinding these cocoons is chiefly in the hands of Jews and Armenians. Turkish silk is considered to be superior in quality to the Italian; and this is attributed to the different mode in which the worms are fed. In Italy the leaves are stripped off, while in Turkey the worms are supplied with entire branches from the trees.

In this quarter we observed the largest private establishment of a manufacturing kind that we have yet seen in Turkey; it is for the purpose of printing coarse cottons: various colours were employed, and the work was all done with hand-patterns. About two hundred workmen are daily engaged here, and we were told that the establishment was in a flourishing condition. There was formerly a large printing-office here, established by Achmet III., and revived by that Selim whose fate has already been noticed. Many valuable works were published, and among others a folio Atlas of the Turkish Empire. This printing-office, together with the splendid barracks built by the same sultan, was destroyed by the infuriated Janizaries in 1808. It is here also that the pilgrims assemble at a particular season of the year to set out upon their annual pilgrimages to the shrine of the prophet at Mecca. Here are to be seen assembled thousands of all ages and both sexes, impelled by mixed motives of devotion, curiosity, and trade, ready and willing to submit to dangers and privations in order to visit the tomb of their great lawgiver, and to be honoured with the title of hadji upon their return. This pilgrimage is strictly enjoined upon every true Mussulman by the Koran, but the wealthy are permitted to perform it by proxy. The regular price we could never ascertain; but if one could be proxy for several, it might be rendered rather a profitable business. In a political point of view, it

is a ruinous practice, not only from the mortality which necessarily accompanies the march of such a motley multitude, but the real injury to the state which must result from so many idlers leading a vagabond life through the country. The devotees who perform the pilgrimage not only visit Mecca, but also Jerusalem in memory of Jesus, whom they reverence as a great prophet. They visit also Medina where Mahomet was buried, and the tomb of Abraham, which they conceive to be at Hebron.

Scutari is recorded in the pages of every traveller for its cemetery, which is reputed to be the largest in the world. From one spot we could take in its whole extent with the eye, and estimated it to contain about five hundred acres. The formal and gloomy cypress defines precisely the limits of this marble city of the dead, and the scene recalls forcibly to mind the vivid description given by the eloquent author of Anastasius.

“There lie, scarcely one foot beneath the surface of a swelling soil, ready to burst at every point with its festering contents, more than half the generations whom death has continued to mow down for nearly four centuries in the vast capital of Islamism. There lie, side by side, on the same level, in cells the size of their bodies, and only distinguished by a marble turban somewhat longer or deeper—somewhat rounder or squarer—personages, in life, far as heaven and earth asunder, in birth, in station, in gifts of nature, and in long-laboured acquirements. There lie, sunk alike in their last sleep—alike food for the worm that lives on death—the conqueror who filled the universe with his name, and the peasant scarcely known in his own hamlet—elders bending beneath the weight of years, and infants of a single hour—men with intellects of angels, and men with understandings inferior to those of brutes—the beauty of Georgia, and the black of Senaar—viziers, beggars, heroes, and women.”

It is generally believed that the preference displayed by

the Turks for this spot, as a place of interment, is founded upon a belief that sooner or later they will be dispossessed of their European territory, and upon the natural desire that their remains should lie undisturbed on the same soil which contains their holy cities of Mecca, Jerusalem, Medina, and Damascus. How far the religious feeling may operate we are not prepared to say, but a more probable explanation may be found in the actual condition of the cemeteries of the metropolis. These are already surcharged with dead, and the burying-ground of Scutari affords a convenient and ample receptacle for succeeding generations.

On our return we saw Turks exhibiting feats of horsemanship. The riders were mounted on high saddles, and had it not been for their beautiful and spirited horses, we should have supposed that we were witnessing the exercises of Cossacks. Their position was not graceful, nor did their seats appear to be firm; the acme of dexterity appeared to consist in wheeling the horse suddenly round, or in checking him with a powerful bit at the top of his speed. Such exercises may be necessary for light skirmishers, but can be of little value for the ordinary purposes of regularly disciplined cavalry; both horses and riders appeared to be soon exhausted by their violent exertions.

In the afternoon we paid a visit to a Greek gentleman who had bestowed upon us many civilities, and had been of much service in indicating various objects of curiosity about the metropolis. This gentleman's relations are connected by descent with two princes of the Fanar,\* whose

\* *Macrocordato* has taken no small part in the various scenes of the Greek revolution, and was for several years the bosom friend and aid of Count Capo d'Istria. We are not informed as to his present condition. Prince Mourouzi, who came originally from Trebisonde, is universally spoken of as a man of letters, a great patron of learning, and of the most estimable and unblemished reputation. He was put to death in 1821.



names have figured conspicuously in the annals of the Turkish empire. We found the ladies of the family exceedingly well-bred and educated women. After the customary offering of sweetmeats and coffee, which the lady of the house makes it a point of good-breeding to present herself to the guest, we were treated with music on the piano, and were agreeably surprised to hear executed with much taste, in the heart of the Turkish empire, choice morceaux from Masaniello, La Dame Blanche, and other recent operas from France and Italy. We petitioned, but in vain, to hear that beautiful song, *Δευτε παιδες των Ελληνων*, which has been so spiritedly translated by Byron; but from policy, or perhaps a consciousness that it would afford no amusement, our request was laughingly evaded. Our curiosity was afterward gratified on this subject in another family at Smyrna; and we are enabled to state for the information of the curious, that a more harsh and unpleasant assemblage of discords cannot, we believe, be found in any country. It is said to be a war song, and of this there can be little doubt; for the music is startling enough of itself to frighten and put to flight the boldest enemy. This portion of the Greeks, commonly called the Greeks of the Fanar, or Fanariots, are an intelligent and well-educated people; and, excepting their superstitious bigotry, may be advantageously contrasted with Europeans. They are immeasurably superior to their fellow-countrymen of the Morea or the islands, are fond of display, and have the reputation of being not only generous, but profuse: they are assiduously attentive, and perform the rites of hospitality with equal good-humour and politeness. There is, moreover, an air of great kindness, and even of ceremonious attention, in their treatment of servants and dependants, which ought to rescue their politeness to superiors from the imputation of servility. The truth of this delineation we have had ample opportunities of verifying, and can bear cheerful testimony to

their kind and grateful attentions to strangers. If any thing is capable of redeeming the character of the descendants of Themistocles from its deep abyss of degradation, it will be the reputation of the Greeks of the Fanar.

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## CHAPTER XL.

Visit to the Seraiskier Pacha—His Reception—History—Character—Anecdote—Pilgrim Ship—Greek Church—Its Tenets—Anecdote—Patriarch of Jerusalem—His Appearance—Curiosity—Clerical Attendants—His Portrait, Autograph, and Official Seal.

**BUSINESS** of a personal nature led us to pay a visit this morning to the Seraiskier Pacha. His residence is in a palace situated on one of the eminences of Constantinople, and in the centre of a spacious court surrounded by high and massy walls. Passing through the portals, under which were numerous armed attendants, we ascended a flight of steps which terminated in a large matted hall. Here, after waiting a few moments to allow our names to be sent in, we were notified that the pacha was in readiness to receive us. We were ushered through an antechamber, in which were stationed a number of soldiers, forming a guard of honour, into the presence of the seraiskier. He is a hale, hearty-looking man, of about sixty years, with a venerable white beard, and a good-humoured, but rather sinister expression of countenance.

His reception of us was extremely courteous, and he entertained us with a long account of his having once met, when captain pacha, with one of our naval commanders in the Mediterranean. It was owing to his representations, and in consequence of what he witnessed of the discipline

and good order of our squadron, that his government had been induced to signify their wishes for a treaty with ours. Previous to our entrance he had apparently been amusing himself with a contrivance for exercising artillery and infantry. Taking up the board, he invited my companion, who was a naval officer, to enter the square and commence a trial of skill. My friend, however, declined, on the plea that he was unacquainted with such matters, but that if his highness would manœuvre fleets with him on the same board, he would willingly accept the challenge. The seraiskier is the second officer of the empire, being only inferior to the grand vizier. His title is equivalent to that of lieutenant-general; he commands all the troops of the metropolis, and also superintends its police. Originally a Georgian slave, he has by dint of cleverness and political sagacity elevated himself to the highest military station in the empire, and possesses much of the personal regard of the sultan, to whose plans of reform he has promptly contributed his aid.

Usref, or Khosref, or Kosrew Pacha, has taken a conspicuous share in the grand drama of the Turkish revolution. He was at one period Pacha of Egypt, but was compelled to yield to the superior cunning and boldness of Mehemet Ali, by whom he was sent back to the capital. On this new theatre his talents were found so useful to the sultan, that he rose rapidly to the station of capudan pacha. In the course of his career he is accused of having committed the blackest crimes in order to render himself acceptable to his master. Two of these are noticed in most books of travels, and are probably well founded. As the agent of the sultan he strangled a bey in the neighbourhood of Angora, and after often-repeated attempts succeeded in taking off the head of the Governor of Smyrna. Both of these personages had rendered themselves obnoxious to the Porte, and according to the Eastern system of ethics, an enemy is to be got rid of, either by fair means or foul. It

is currently reported here that a deadly hostility still exists between the Egyptian viceroy and Usref, and that Mehemet Ali had frequently demanded his head of the Porte. Should any hostile demonstrations be made by the Egyptian pacha against the sultan, it will doubtless be found that one of his most powerful *secrèt* reasons will be to destroy the *seraiskier*.

After serving in several important offices, he was elevated to the office of capudan pacha or lord high admiral, and in that capacity commanded the Turkish fleet on several of its cruises. We are not aware that he distinguished himself while in this station by any brilliant action, but he introduced several important reforms into the navy, and what was still more extraordinary, if we were rightly informed, he always managed to bring back his fleet in safety. Those who are conversant with the general management of Turkish fleets, will acknowledge this to be no small praise. He is said to be a man of much boldness and determination, and inflicts punishment with a merciless hand. Civilians, however, are rarely inclined to make due allowances for the severity of martial law, and it should be recollected that this government is peculiarly military. By singular good luck, Usref was not with the fleet when Canaris burned the Turkish flag-ship near Scio, and as he was too cunning to accompany the fleet to Alexandria, he escaped the subsequent "untoward event" of Navarino.

An anecdote is related of this *seraiskier*, which exhibits his promptness and fearlessness in repressing the slightest symptom of disorder. It may be necessary to remind the reader, that all pachas have the power of life and death without appeal or responsibility. A few months since, an officer of rank (a *been-bashi*, or colonel), upon some slight provocation, ran his sword through the body of an inferior officer. The *seraiskier*, upon being informed of the fact, sent for the colonel, inquired if the charge was true, and receiving a reply in the affirmative, ordered his head to be

taken off upon the spot. His reputation for severity is such, that his presence alone is capable of repressing the most furious tumult, although his personal appearance and affable manners would scarcely countenance the stories related of his savage ferocity. If a tithe of these stories be true, he may be set down as "the mildest mannered man that ever cut a throat."

In the afternoon we were honoured with an introduction to a lion of another description. We had occasion to pay a visit to a Greek family in the Fanar, and accordingly engaged a *caïk* to take us up the Golden Horn. On our passage we remarked in the harbour a burthensome brig, decorated with various colours, all of which displayed crosses of various shapes and hues. At the mainmast head was a large ensign with a huge cross in its centre, surrounded by four smaller ones. Not a single national flag appeared. Our curiosity was so much aroused by this ostentatious display of so many crosses in the Capital of the Crescent, that we went alongside, and were invited to come on board. It was one of the pilgrim ships which carry a promiscuous assortment of Greeks, Armenians, and Jews to the holy city of Jerusalem. The scene presented on board would be difficult to describe, but any one who has seen a ship loading with passengers for America on the coast of Ireland, can readily form an idea of the noise, the filth, and the confusion which reigned on board of this pilgrim ship.

Upon our arrival at the Fanar, some of the members of the family for whom our visit was intended were just setting out to pay a visit to the Patriarch of Jerusalem, and invited us to accompany them. As we are about to visit one of the heads of a church to which seventy millions bow with reverence, it may not be amiss to give a rapid sketch of the composition and nature of this elder sister of the church of Rome. The Greek church has four patriarchs, namely, of Constantinople, of Antioch, of Jeru-

saalem, and of Rome. The first-named patriarch is elected by the votes of the bishops in his vicinity, and must be confirmed by the sultan, for which he pays the trifling sum of 20 or \$30,000. He nominates the other three patriarchs, and they also pay a *bakshish* to the Commander of the Faithful for the confirmation of their appointments. These offices are no doubt highly desirable, and between the scramble for them on the part of the clergy, and the desire of the sultan to obtain a frequent *bakshish*, the republican doctrine of rotation in office is not unfrequently exercised. The various duties of the church are performed by a series of functionaries, from archbishops down to subdeacons. The following are the principal distinctive characteristics of the followers of the Greek church. They reject the supremacy of the pope, and of course his infallibility is prostrated along with it. They have no images in their churches, although they have many pictures; but we have never yet seen one which could by any possibility be supposed to infringe upon the second commandment. They believe in transubstantiation, and cheerfully assist in propagating the Scriptures. They scrupulously dip three times in baptism, use no instrumental music in their churches, and their priests may marry before receiving ordination. Their two strongholds of faith and practice are contained in the belief that the Holy Ghost proceeds from the Father, and not, as the Roman Catholics believe, from the Son as well as from the Father; and in the due observance of feasting and fasting.\* Their fasts occupy

\* However unimportant some of these observances and opinions may appear to us, yet to the importance attached to them by the Greeks we may fairly attribute the destruction of the Greek empire in the East. In the year 1438, or fifteen years before the capture of Constantinople by the Turks, an attempt was made to unite the Latin and Greek churches, which would have furnished them with the requisite aid. Rather however than adopt any conciliatory course with their Christian brethren, by giving up doubtful subjects of faith and practice, they preferred, after an ineffectual

230 days in the year, and most of them are scrupulously observed, although some are much more rigid than others. Generally they abstain from meat, milk, eggs, cheese, and butter, but on the more severe fast days they eat nothing but oysters, clams, muscles, and caviar, although it is rather remarkable that wine may be used in any quantity. The observance of their fasts no doubt gives them a greater zest for their feast days, which are agreeably sprinkled through the remainder of the year to the number of fifty-eight. We can have no idea at home of the importance which the Greeks attach to the observance of these fasts and feasts, but an anecdote which we derived from an eyewitness will serve as an illustration. A European vessel had been captured by some Greek pirates, which they robbed after murdering the crew. Two of them were seized, carried into Malta, and hung. On the trial, the ringleader was asked why, after robbing the ship of every thing portable, he had not carried off also a fine piece of beef which hung up on the deck. "Would you have me eat meat on fast days!" was the shuddering reply of the miscreant. Indeed, it was owing to the beef being untouched that they were first suspected of the piracy. The priest who attended them to the gallows assured the friend from whom I have this anecdote that the criminals were *very religious men!*

"It was doubtless from similar circumstances, and possibly a more extensive acquaintance with the Greek character, that an English traveller of some celebrity (Galt) was induced to assert, that "One-half of the Greek church have no religion at all, and those who have are worse than the others."<sup>\*</sup>

struggle, to submit to the dominion of an infidel power. Like some narrow sectaries, who appear to have more charity for the open unbeliever than for a brother Christian not of their communion.

\* We had always supposed the excommunication quoted by Sterne to be merely an extravagant jest, until we met with the following, which is given by Rycant as the formula used by the Greek church against thieves who have not been detected.

The patriarch of Jerusalem always resides at Constantinople, and exercises sovereign sway over Palestine. There is an institution called the Bank of Jerusalem, over which he presides. We are not informed as to the precise nature of this precious concern, but presume that its stock is raised from the contributions of those who hope to secure salvation hereafter by the purchase of its shares. It must be a bank of faith, for it exploded some years ago, and has never paid its stockholders a single dollar.

But it is time to introduce our reader to the subject of these remarks in person.

Proceeding through a series of lofty but plainly furnished apartments, we at length reached the room where the patriarch was in waiting to receive us. It was fitted up with a divan in the Turkish manner, and the patriarch was seated cross-legged on the floor in one of its angles.

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Let them be separated from the Lord, Creator and be accursed, and unpardoned and indissoluble after death in this world and the world to come. Let wood, stones, and iron be dissolved, and not they. May they inherit the leprosy of Gehazi and the confusion of Judas; may the earth be divided and devour them like Dathan and Abiram; may they sigh and tremble on earth like Cain, and the wrath of God be upon their heads and countenances; may they see nothing of that for which they labour, and beg their bread all the days of their lives; may their works, possessions, labours, and services be accursed, always without effect or success, and blown away like dust; may they have the curses of the holy and righteous patriarchs Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; of the three hundred and eighteen saints who were the divine fathers of the synod of Nice, and all other holy synods; and being without the church of Christ, let no man administer to them the things of the church, or bless them, or offer sacrifices for them, or give them the blessed bread to eat, or drink, or work with them, or converse with them; and after death let no man bury them under pain of being under the same state of excommunication, &c. &c.

The dread of this anathema is excessive among the Greeks, and crimes even of greater magnitude have been committed in order to avoid it. A traveller in Greece relates that two Greeks having robbed a priest, expressed to each other their fears, that as they were known by him, they would be excommunicated. They returned, and actually murdered him in order to escape his anathema.



He is a remarkably fine-looking old man, with a most venerable and apostolical beard, of a dazzling silvery whiteness, and of remarkable size. We were admitted to the honour of kissing his hands, and in compliment no doubt to our American origin, he deigned to make many inquiries respecting our country. Among other questions, he naturally was curious about our religion. This delicate question we endeavoured to blink, as they say in Parliament, by assuring his holiness that we were Protestants, but, as the term did not seem particularly clear and definite to him, we stated in a conciliatory spirit that we rejected the authority of the pope, that we had no statues, and little music in our churches, and that we had also fasts and feasts, but we took care not to inform him that the latter were better observed than the former. The old gentleman was delighted with these replies, and proceeded to question me upon some of the doctrinal points, when apprehensive of getting out of my depth, I managed (uncivilly enough it must be allowed) to avoid them by inquiring of his holiness about the present condition and future prospects of the See of Jerusalem. All the attendants about the palace were officers, and some of them dignitaries of the church, but when they addressed the patriarch it was always on their knees, and with all the flourishes which accompany oriental homage. It was here that for the first time in my life I was served by clerical attendants. A *papas* offered me sweetmeats and a cup of water, a *proto papas* presented me a cup of coffee, while a *deacon* had the honour of serving me with a lighted pipe.

Our replies had been so satisfactory, that, upon taking leave, his *discreetness* was so kind as to offer us a copy of his apostolical seal, and a specimen of his handwriting, which had been requested for a friend. We received them in fact a few days afterward, accompanied with several sacred cakes of soap, and four rosaries made at Jerusalem.

To this he had the kindness to add an engraved likeness of himself, decorated with all his pontificals. A copy of the autograph we have deemed sufficiently curious to insert below.\* It is in ancient Greek, and, for the benefit of the ladies we subjoin a translation. The original is accompanied with the pontifical, or rather patriarchal seal, and is a fair specimen of Greek calligraphy.

\* Τῷ Εξ' οχωτάτῳ † Δότ' ορι Κυρίῳ —, ἀνδρί καλῷ καλαθῷ, περιηγησαμένῳ μετὰ τὴν  
 εἰς Βασιλεῦσαι ἀφίξιν τα Πατριαρχικὰ τοῦ Ἀγιωτάτου θρόνου ἡμῶν, καὶ γνωστῇν τι  
 ἡμῶν Μετρώτητι δοδοταὶ μνήμης αἰδίῳ τεκμήριον καὶ Εὐχῆς Εὐκαρίων το παρόν  
 Ἐν ἔτει Αῶλα καὶ τα Μῆνα Οὐτάδριον.

To his excellency Doctor —, a distinguished personage, who, upon his arrival at this royal residence, has been introduced to the patriarch seat of our most holy throne, and become known to our moderation, (a) these presents are given in token of our everlasting remembrance and of our cordial good-will, from the heart of

Athanasius in Christ, patriarch of Jerusalem.

The title *Εξ' οχωτάτος*, or most excellent, is the usual epithet in the East to physicians, possibly on the ground assigned by Homer, λ. 514. "That a medical man is more excellent than a multitude of others." Count Capo D'Istria gave much dissatisfaction when president of Greece by assuming this title.

(a) Or discreetness. This is a more modest title than that of the patriarch of Constantinople, who is always addressed as *την Μακαρίαν τον*, or his blessedness.

## CHAPTER XLI.

Arrival of a Russian Steamboat—Mismanagement—Therapeia—Ypsilanti—Ancient Altar—School at Therapeia—No attempts made among the Turks—Education of Turkish Women—Turkish Newspapers—Blasphemous Titles among the Greeks—M. Blacque the French Editor—His sufferings in the cause of Truth—Reflections on the influence of Newspapers—Extended circulation of the Turkish Newspapers.

THE arrival of a Russian steamboat from Odessa is the ordinary topic of the day. She was built at Cronstadt two years since, and has made several trips between Constantinople and Odessa. She is a clump-built vessel, of about 200 tons burthen, with an engine of 80 horse power. A person who came in her from Odessa stated to us that her utmost speed did not exceed four miles the hour. The weather was calm, and the distance is 450 miles, and yet it required five days to make the passage. We saw her indeed, afterward, attempt to tow a vessel up the Bosphorus. The wind was light and favourable, but, with the united aid of wind and steam, she was compelled to relinquish the undertaking, and indeed, her passage up the Bosphorus alone was performed with difficulty. The usual expenses of a trip to Constantinople and back again are stated to be \$5000. It was formerly a government concern, but, like every government attempt of a similar kind, it failed, and is now managed by a private company. It was originally intended to ply as a regular packet, and, had there been any regularity in its days of departure, would no doubt have repaid its expenses. Frequently, however, the packet would be detained days, and even weeks, to enable the Russian ambassador to furnish the latest gossip of his drogoman, or to allow his secretaries time to finish their love-letters. Under the present arrangement, it is

expressly agreed, that there shall be no delay whatever on account of government, and it is supposed that it will now be better managed, although the only engineer on board is a drunken English fireman. She was afterward seen to make three attempts to enter the Black Sea, but put back each time on account of the wind, and was finally compelled, with forty others, to wait for a favourable change.

In the afternoon we visited Therapeia. This spot, according to novel-writers and travellers, which by the way are too often convertible terms, is the terrestrial paradise of the modern Greek. It is prettily situated, partly on the slope of a steep hill, and partly around the shores of one of the numerous picturesque bays which indent the Bosphorus. The special object of our visit was to examine the beautiful garden and grounds belonging to the palace of the French ambassador. These, as we have elsewhere remarked, owe much of their decoration and arrangement to the brave but unfortunate Prince Ypsilanti. The grounds occupy about ten acres, and it is hardly possible to imagine a more lovely spot. From a terrace almost hanging over the palace, the eye takes in the picturesque shores of Asia opposite, the Bosphorus winding its way to the metropolis between palace-crowned banks, while on the left we see the marine village of Buyukdery, and the entrance from the Black Sea crowded with sails of almost every possible variety of shape and hue. In one part of the garden, we noticed a marble tablet, a facsimile of that which crowns the black Cyanean rock at the entrance of the Bosphorus. It is of white Parian marble, four feet high and two feet in diameter. A sculptured garland of flowers, suspended in festoons over heads of Apis, gracefully winds around the circular tablet near the summit. A hole in the top is probably a more recent addition, designed to sustain a statue or cross. This, and its twin brother of the Symplegades, have afforded delightful fields of conjecture to the

antiquary. Our readers shall be spared an epitome of the thousand and one good things which these sculptured marbles have called forth. They must be contented to adopt with us the most probable opinion, which is, that they were votive tablets, or altars upon which the "ancient mariner" offered sacrifices either to propitiate the favour of the ruler of winds, or to return thanks upon his safe return from a hazardous voyage. The inscription on the pedestal which remains on the Cyanean rock (now defaced and obliterated) as given by Sandys, only proves that the column which was placed upon it was dedicated to Augustus. This column no longer exists. In the absence of any inscription, their position alone would seem to indicate the purposes for which they were erected. The altar in the garden was taken, as we have been informed, from the Asiatic shore of the Bosphorus near the Black Sea, but its precise locality is not known.

Therapeia, previous to the Greek revolution, was celebrated for the wealth and the sumptuous style of living exhibited by the merchant princes of the Fanar. These have all disappeared. A few wealthy Greek merchants, and several foreign ambassadors now occupy their place; and the lower classes, who still keep possession of the village, are said to exhibit more profligacy in their conduct than can be found in any other Greek village in the Turkish empire. This peculiar pre-eminence the Greeks themselves do not hesitate to acknowledge, and ascribe it to the great concourse of strangers in that place.

This spot has been selected by Mr. Goodell as a suitable place for one of the many schools which he has already scattered about Constantinople and its suburbs. It is to be in future supported by a benevolent Greek, who has interested himself very much in the cause of education. We entered and found it to contain about fifty scholars. The little dogs were swinging their heads over their *Alphas* and *Vetas* with great diligence, and the arrangement of the

school afforded us unmingled satisfaction. The only punishment appeared to consist in attaching to the culprit a paper denoting the delinquency. One little fellow carried a printed card labelled *azmaklı*, or disorderly, and when he was pointed out to us, he coloured up to the forehead, and drops of tears coursed over his ruddy cheeks. All the schools hitherto established by foreigners in Turkey have been confined to our favourite Greeks and to Armenians. The Jews and Turks have as yet received no attention. The Jews we may suppose have declined all attempts of the kind, and possibly the Turks might be apt to consider any overtures on our part as an impertinent interference, as they have in the metropolis\* 1200 primary schools called *mektebs*, besides colleges or *medressays*. We believe this to be a larger number than belongs to New-York or Philadelphia, and they may reasonably suppose that more would be useless, although from the anecdote related in a preceding chapter, it appears that the Turkish schools are susceptible of much improvement. I have been in several of them, but from the noise it was almost impossible to ask a question or hear an answer. The universal practice seems to be for all the scholars to say their lessons at the same moment,—an excellent contrivance for saving time, and entertaining the neighbourhood with a vocal concert. In these primitive schools nothing is taught beyond reading, writing, and reciting passages from the Koran, which, like our Bible, is made a school-book. The instructors are, in most instances, paid in part from the funds of the nearest mosque, and the remainder is furnished by the parents. I did not see a single girl in any of the schools, from whence I conclude that reading and writing are not accomplishments in which the Turkish women usually shine; but, I am nevertheless assured, that all the

\* In 1820 there were, according to Van Hammer, 1653 primary schools for the education of Turks in Constantinople.

girls of families above the very lowest ranks are taught to read at least the Koran. Writing is not so general an acquisition. In reflecting upon the state of society in the East, the first thing which attracts the attention of a stranger is the total insignificance of the female sex. He is told that it always has been so from the earliest time, and this is conceived to be a sufficient reason why it should be perpetuated. It is not, however, owing to the jealousy of the men, as travellers have idly repeated after each other, for, as we have already seen, women in Turkey have as much liberty as in any part of the world. The true reason is, that the women are ignorant, and hence, are unwilling to expose themselves in society. Several Greek and Armenian ladies who were intimate with Turkish women, have assured me that they were as well bred and as intelligent companions as any of their acquaintances. The beneficial influence of women in society where they hold their due place in the social scale is universally acknowledged, and to hold this station education alone is necessary. If the Turkish females were better educated, their influence would be more felt, and it is impossible to predict the extent of the benefits which might, by this means alone, be spread over the empire. There are, however, it cannot be disguised, serious obstacles in the way of commencing this important work. The Turkish women conceive their yashmaks, or partial veils to be evidences not merely of modesty, but of decency, and, as a necessary consequence, those who do not wear them are scarcely decent in their eyes. With these views, it will be difficult to persuade them to receive instruction from any European or American source. So strong is this prejudice, that Lady Montagu was obliged to conform to it, and even at the present day Greeks and Armenians, who live in Turkish quarters or districts, feel themselves obliged to adopt the yashmak, to avoid the reputation of being indecent or im-

puident among their veiled neighbours. This, however, is rapidly passing away.

It was at Therapeia that we had the pleasure of witnessing one of those classical entertainments which would have drawn expressions of rapture from the thorough-paced scholar. It is now the season for gathering grapes, and the Greek peasants who cultivate the vineyards, celebrate this event by a festival which has for more than twenty centuries been known as the *τρυνος*, or vintage.

On this occasion, the scene of festivity was on the summit of one of those high hills which overlook Yenikeui, and command a noble view of the Black Sea; a plain kiosk, or summer-house, was filled with Greeks of both sexes, dancing and singing with all the gayety and light-heartedness which characterize that people. In the vicinity were groupes of Armenian and Turkish women sitting on the grass, who, although unable to throw off their constitutional reserve and timidity to join the festive dance, yet seemed to take much pleasure in being within hearing of the music. Making our way with some difficulty up the rickety steps, or rather ladder, we entered the dancing-room. The dance, although lively, was certainly not in the style which *Celeste* would have selected to exhibit her sylph-like form, and it was in fact an exhibition of sufficient clumsiness to petrify a modern professeur de danse with horror. It would not be difficult to find its parallel in some of our own country villages in the dancing which winds up a quilting or husking frolic. The faces of the Greek girls were in nowise remarkable, and it would not have been easy to find among them models for grouping and attitude, comparable to those enchanting forms which have for so many centuries received universal homage.

We have just returned from a visit to the imperial printing-office. It is near the palace of the Seraskier Pacha, and was constructed especially for the purpose for which it is used. It is a spacious establishment, and no expense appears to



have been spared to render it complete and commodious in every respect. A sentinel on duty at the grand entrance permits no one to pass without a written permission, at least we obtained such a passport to exhibit at the door. The rooms for the French and Turkish types are distinct, although Turkish compositors are generally employed. The printing press was at work when we entered; it was of the Stanhope kind, but a steam press is daily expected. The workmen were engaged in striking off the first number of the *Moniteur Ottoman* when we entered, and we were probably the earliest to receive a copy of the first newspaper ever issued by the Turkish government. This paper is published in two forms, entirely distinct and separate, so that one may have either a French or a Turkish copy, as he may prefer. There are, of course, two chief editors; one is Mehemet Esad Effendi, a learned Turk, who is likewise historiographer of the empire. The Turkish newspaper differs from its French twin brother, not only in its title, which is *Takvimme Vaykahee*, or *Chronicle of Events*, but in the contents of its columns. Thus, for instance, the French article relating to the late fire, which repels the charge of apathy and indifference on the part of the public authorities, is entirely omitted in the Turkish version. But notwithstanding the suppression of this and other articles, the Turkish paper occupies six pages, while its French namesake contains but four, and is about the ordinary size of a French newspaper; the style of the Turkish newspaper is said by competent judges to be perspicuous, and free from the foppery of Arabic and Persian words. The difference in size is owing to the fact that in the Turkish version the articles are much amplified, and the titles alone of the different public characters named, which are given at full length, would almost fill a newspaper of themselves. This fondness for grandiloquent and ambitious titles, often charged upon the Turks as an evidence of a barbarous state, is neither peculiar to them nor is it of oriental origin. The

Turks have borrowed it, with the crescent, and many other things, from their Grecian predecessors. In reading the blood-stained annals of the lower empire, under the Greeks, it is not uncommon to meet with epithets like the following applied by a Christian emperor to himself.

"The very sublime Isaac (Isaac II.), most holy, most excellent, and most powerful, created by God emperor and master of the Romans; the angel of the whole earth, sovereign over all sovereigns, &c."

The subscriptions to this paper already exceed 5000, and the number is said to be rapidly increasing; the two chief editors receive \$8,000 per annum for their services. We were received with much civility by the French editor, Mr. Blacque, who politely took us round the establishment. Mr. B. is a native of France, who has resided in this country fifteen years, and is perfectly conversant with the Turkish language and manners. He was at one period of his life in New-York, where he spent several months, and speaks like a liberal man of our country and its institutions. He conducted for several years a newspaper at Smyrna, with great ability, and with so much freedom that he gave mortal offence to several of the European powers. At one time he spoke so boldly of the atrocities committed by that knavish hireling of Russia, Capo d'Istrias, that the Russian minister, Ribeaupierre, made a formal complaint to the Porte, and requested that he should be silenced about Greece. The government, at that period, were either unwilling or afraid to offend their recent enemy, and accordingly requested Mr. Blacque to be silent in future on that subject; at the same time they stated at whose solicitation they had been induced to make the request. To display in glaring colours this interference, Mr. B. stated in his next paper that he should in future speak with more reserve of Capo d'Istrias, as his owners in Russia, through Ribeaupierre, had made a formal complaint to the Porte on that subject. The paper of Mr. Blacque was the only one in the eastern

hemisphere (out of England) in which the truth could be fairly told, and even here, European influence was strong enough to reach him. Upon more than one occasion a single edict of the French ambassador at Constantinople was sufficient to suspend his paper. After the butchery at Navarino, he spoke of it in terms well suited to the character of that iniquitous affair. He was, in consequence, arrested in his own house, at Smyrna, by French soldiers, and sent by order of the French consul on board a man of war, then lying in the harbour. It was intended to send him to France, to be tried for his life or liberty. A general burst of indignation followed this wanton outrage; all the most respectable European inhabitants of Smyrna came forward in a body, without distinction of nation, and offered themselves as security, and the consul, alarmed for the credit of his nation, was induced to restore him to liberty.

We have been thus diffuse on the subject of this Turkish newspaper, because it may be considered as the key-stone of that great work of reform so gloriously commenced by Selim, and systematically pursued by the present Sultan Mahmoud. It is indeed an undertaking of which it is scarcely possible to appreciate the issue, but it must necessarily be beneficial; for when we look at France, regenerated by her public press, at the United States, whose institutions receive new strength from the same source, or at England, where reform, although momentarily suspended, must and will terminate by the aid of the press in a glorious issue, we can scarcely trust ourselves with the anticipations of the brilliant destiny in reserve for the future Turkish empire.

Independently, however, of these considerations, the establishment of a newspaper is an immediate and positive good. It will enable the government, by means of a generally known language, to give their own views on public affairs, to explain their motives, and to defend such acts as are susceptible of misrepresentation. Hitherto the rela-

tions of the Turks to the other nations of Europe remind one of the fable of the painter and the lion. All the painting has been on one side, and the character of the Turk and the acts of his government have been uniformly painted in dark and gloomy colours. Now the case is altered, and Mustapha can make his voice heard to the remotest corners of Europe; he can expose the injustice and violence, and counteract the falsehoods, of his opponents; he can expose their duplicity, and tear aside the flimsy veil of humanity with which they may attempt to conceal their atrocities towards him; in a word, the Turk is now in a situation to assist in forming public opinion, and he will no longer submit in silence to the continual attempts made to impugn his motives or to traduce his character. An intelligent Turk with whom we conversed on this subject was so convinced of the importance of having an organ of their own through which they may freely communicate with the rest of Europe, that he expressed his belief that the allied powers would never have dared to commit the wanton massacre at Navarino, had the Turks been in a situation to expose their wrongs through the medium of a public press.

Whether this act of villany would have been perpetrated in defiance of public opinion we cannot undertake to say, but we are strongly inclined to believe that more pains would have been taken to disguise its atrocity.

In reflecting upon the influence which the public press enjoys in the community, it is impossible to avoid the conviction, that true and impartial history only commences with the introduction of newspapers. Before their appearance we are compelled to depend upon the exaggerated or partial views of professed historians, and where they differ we can only conjecture on which side the truth is to be found. Moreover, they only, for the most part, profess to give the political history of a single kingdom, or a single reign, or else give a hasty outline where we seek for a finished picture; in a word, we should be disposed to con-

sider Constantinople under a totally different aspect, this week, from what it was before the appearance of this newspaper. How many Periot fables have we listened to within the last six months, which are destroyed at one blow by the appearance of this gazette. We will give only one instance.

The recent fête of Ibrahim Aga was, we were assured by at least twenty Franks, given for the express purpose of circumcising the heir presumptive to the throne, and all the lads of the same age throughout the empire were to undergo this interesting operation on the same day. The newspaper appears; it contains a minute account of the fête, but not a word is said of this ceremony, although all the priesthood of Constantinople and its environs were present to perform it if necessary.

Since writing the above, we are pleased to be enabled to add the following information. The Turks have received this newspaper with great pleasure, and the subscription list has nearly doubled among them; the government, on the other hand, have been so much pleased with the success of this experiment, that they have made arrangements to publish it in Arabic, Persian, Greek, and Armenian. The Greek patriarch of Constantinople has issued a circular, in which he warmly recommends this paper to his countrymen.

## CHAPTER XLII.

**Walls of Constantinople—Their utter Uselessness—Turkish Fleet outside—Dying and Printing Establishment—Greek Church of the Repose of the Virgin Mary—Separation of the Sexes—Anecdote—Palace of Justinian—Ballata—Jews—Preference for their Turkish Masters—Hatred between them and the Greeks—Shisherhannay, or Glassworks—Greek School at the Fanar.**

WE followed this morning the course of the wall which lines the city of Constantinople along the Sea of Marmora. One of the most quiet, clean, and agreeable streets in the city runs along this wall through its whole extent. The houses here are usually of three stories, in order to overtop the walls, and are quite of a superior character. The wall, although apparently of great strength, is in fact the reverse, and a half-hour's cannonade would knock the whole to pieces. Independent of its gradual decay from the lapse of time, it was originally very slight; for, with a height of twenty feet, it is scarcely four feet thick in many places, although it has the appearance of being much more. This appearance of strength is kept up by large square towers distributed at certain intervals along the whole line of wall; but nothing can be more deceptive, for these towers are hollow, and are in the same ruinous state with the rest of the structure. If this wall was levelled, and its materials employed in the construction of a quay, it would form one of the most delightful promenades in the world. It would contribute to health, and would besides be more easily fortified; although to a Turk the destruction of this useless wall would appear as if Constantinople had lost its proud, but unmeaning, title of *the well-defended city*. At certain distances stairs of gradual ascent lead to the sum-

mit, for the convenience of the city scavengers, who throw over the walls the dirt and rubbish of this part of the city. From the top we had a delightful view of the Sea of Marmora, with the picturesque Prince's Islands and snowy Olympus, and the other lofty mountain chains of Bithynia in the distance. A part of the Turkish fleet, just returned from assisting in quelling the rebellion of the Pacha of Scutari, is lying off at the distance of three miles, and consists of twelve vessels, of which three are three-deckers, six frigates, a brig, and two sloops of war. The appearance of this armament, with the numerous small craft which at all times cover the Sea of Marmora, gives an air of life and animation to the scene. There are a few places along the line of the wall which are open to the sea, and small quays near them admit the market-boats which belong to various ports along the Sea of Marmora. We noticed here a large establishment, similar to that already mentioned at Scutari, and, like that, managed by private individuals. The gayly printed calicoes, suspended in the air, give the idea of some festive celebration, and were among the first objects that attracted our attention when we coasted along these walls, upon our first entry into the metropolis.

In the course of our stroll we came to a small Greek church, situated on an eminence back of the Fanar, which had frequently been noticed from the harbour, and had given rise to many conjectures from its singular antique appearance. It was a circular tower, with numerous subsequent additions, and is said to be one of the oldest Greek churches in the capital. Its Greek name is not recollected, but it is dedicated "to the repose of the *Virgin Mary*." We were permitted to enter it, and found it to be nearly covered with the pictures of saints, angels, and martyrs. The Greeks abhor statues as an abomination; but their pictures are not very far removed from what we should conceive to be graven images. The drapery, hands, and indeed almost every part of the picture, except the face, is covered with

plates of silver, carved out to represent the parts which they hide ; and these pictures, half-paint and half-silver, present an odd and grotesque appearance, equally at war with good taste and true devotion. In this church, as in all others of the same persuasion, the women are not only separated by a partition of lattice-work from the body of the church, but they have even a separate and distinct place of entrance. I recollect, upon one occasion, visiting a Greek church with an American lady, and although the church was dedicated to the Virgin Mary, and her picture in every variety of costume and complexion was multiplied on the walls, yet the disguise would not permit my female companion to enter a particular part, although its most conspicuous ornament was a brimstone-looking picture of the Virgin. When asked the reason, this polite descendant of Themistocles replied, that it was not permitted, for women would defile it. So much for that reasoning animal—man.

From this church we proceeded to what is called the palace of Justinian, near the land walls of the city. From the top of the wall we could distinctly perceive the triple line of wall alluded to by travellers. It is not, however, triple along its whole length, but only in particular points ; at least, such was the impression made upon us. These walls, although much more formidable in fact than those along the Sea of Marmora, would be crumbled to the dust by modern artillery in twenty-four hours. We have heard many foreigners converse on the probable consequences of an attack upon Constantinople by the Russians : they unanimously agreed that the true policy of the enemy would be to stop the aqueducts which supply the city with water, and it would be compelled to surrender without a blow. Nothing remains of this huge structure but the ruinous walls, built of stone and brick. Within the walls temporary sheds are erected, which are inhabited by the wretched descendants of the children of Israel. There are said to be inscriptions within ; but such is the superstitious fear which



the Greeks entertain of the Jews, that our guide refused to trust himself within the walls, and persuaded our party to relinquish the attempt.

We are now in the Jewish quarter, called *Ballata*, from having been formerly a park in which the Greek emperors were accustomed to take the diversion of hunting. It is pre-eminently distinguished by its dirt and filth over every other quarter of the metropolis, and is not less loathsome than in the days of Christian Constantinople, when the tanners emptied the disgusting contents of their pans before the doors of this degraded and persecuted race. The wise tolerance of the Turks has contributed to increase very much this part of the population: two hundred years ago, a *mild* and *tolerant* traveller says that there were more than 20,000 of that *accursed* and *contemptible* people in Constantinople, and, as we have before mentioned, their numbers now equal 60,000. They pay the same taxes with other rayahs, and are allowed to collect the *haratch* by their own officers. They appear to be an inoffensive race, whose degradation seems to be owing chiefly to their gross ignorance, and their unwillingness to undertake any thing which requires hard manual labour. They are, of course, despised by the Turks for their personal nastiness; but at the same time are protected as useful citizens. They are very naturally attached to their tolerant masters, and if the Russians were to menace the capital, the Jews would, we apprehend, be found fighting under the banner of the crescent. To this they would be urged by various considerations, arising out of coincidences between the Jewish and Turkish habits and feelings: they are both of oriental origin, both worship the one indivisible Deity, and both (although in various degrees) attribute to the Old Testament a divine origin. The Jews are, besides, well aware that the severities of their Turkish masters would be far preferable to the tender mercies of the Greek church. Between them and the Greeks there exists a deep feeling of hatred, which shows

itself on all occasions, and which, we would charitably hope, does not entirely arise from the difference in their respective religious creeds. During the Greek revolution, when every Greek in the city was suspected of being a spy, and many were discovered to be such, the Jews lent their willing aid to detect them; and when the Greek patriarch was hung up before his own door,\* his body was taken down and dragged through the streets by a mob of infuriated Jewish wretches, until every vestige of humanity had disappeared. For this act, which must be stigmatized as a stain upon human nature, the Greeks have vowed an ample revenge; and had the Jews possessed a thousandth part of that heroic courage which their ancestors display in the pages of Josephus, these mutual hatreds would long ere this have broken out in a bloody conflict.

In this Jewish quarter we visited a *shisherhannay*, or establishment for blowing glass, several of which are in the neighbourhood. The works are of the simplest construction, and the annealing oven is directly above, and heated by the melting furnace. Labour, of course, is cheap; although we could not ascertain how much is paid, as the price of the work is regulated by the nature of the articles manufactured. All the materials are close at hand, and the wood consumed is of the commonest kind. It costs, delivered on the spot, eight piastres for the chequi of 180 okes, or about 50 cents for nearly 500 lbs. weight of wood. 250 lbs. weight of common firewood we may remark, sells at this season for 87½ cents. The glass which they were employed in blowing was of the most inferior quality; and of this they were making tumblers, decanters, and apothecaries' vials. One of our party happened to have a glass inkstand about him, and asked them if they could make a similar article. The foreman undertook the task, and after a variety of attempts, at last produced an article which he

\* April 22d, 1821.

pronounced to be an excellent imitation; but which to a person unacquainted with its history would be a complete enigma.

On our return home, we stopped for a few moments at a Greek school in the Fanar, established by our missionary Mr. Goodell. It contains at present sixty scholars, of all ages, from three to fifteen years, and under the present management is rapidly increasing. The lower apartments were devoted to the younger portion, who were earnestly engaged in scratching similitudes of the Greek letters in the sand before them. The upper rooms were occupied by the older boys, who were engaged in reading Hellenic Greek out of the *Cyropædia* of Xenophon. We were informed that the wealthy Greeks of the Fanar have come forward very handsomely to aid this apparently excellent and certainly well-conducted seminary.

# CHAPTER XLIII.

Origin of Turks—Ulemah—Course of Studies—Ranks—Privileges—Priest-hood—Rank and Pay—Five Orders of Magistracy—Courts of Justice—Tenure of Property—Vakooft.

ABOUT six hundred years ago a Turkish tribe of a few hundred families, driven from Persia by Genghis Khan, entered Asia Minor, and were permitted by the Sultan of Koniah to establish themselves near Angora. Their leader Ertogrool attacked the Christians of Bithynia, and left to his son Osman large possessions. From this time, for nearly four hundred years, they waged perpetual war against the Christians; who, on the other hand, stimulated by the popes, and forgetting their mutual quarrels, leagued together against the common foe. In all this period, peace was never for an instant thought of by either party, and when unavoidable circumstances compelled both to lay aside their arms, it was only under the form of a truce for a definite period. Up to the peace of Carlowitz, 1693, the Turkish power had been constantly on the increase; but from this time it has been gradually declining, and the general opinion appears to be at the present day, that the existence of the Turkish empire, in Europe at least, hangs upon the will of the Russian czar.

It is not a little remarkable, that a nation whose power has so long and so often shaken Europe to its centre should be so little understood by its neighbours; and even in our own times its political institutions are either distorted by superficial or ignorant travellers, or buried under the most extravagant conjectures.

Where so many have erred before me, it would be pre-

sumption to suppose that I can furnish a faithful picture of the political institutions of Turkey. The most that can be done is to give a view of some of the machinery of the government, leaving to my readers to form their own conclusions.

It is supposed by some that the sultan exercises despotic sway, uncontrolled by any one, and that his will upon all occasions is supreme law. Others believe that an authority paramount to the sultan is exercised by the ulemah or ministers of the Mohammedan law. It is necessary to premise, that all the public functionaries in Turkey are divided into three classes:—ulemah, or men of the law; el sayif, or men of the sword; and el kalem, or men of the pen. The first are under the mufti, the two others subordinate to the vizier.

The ulemah are divided into three great classes:—

1. *Iman*, or ministers of religion.
2. *Mufti*, or doctors of civil and ecclesiastical law.
3. *Cadi*, or ministers of justice.

We will suppose that it is determined to educate a young man for the ulemah. He is first required to pass through one of the medressays, or colleges, and then is subjected to a severe examination before the mufti. If found qualified, he enters a particular college, where his stay is shortened or prolonged according to circumstances. Only four leave this college annually, and this is determined by seniority and the degree of progress they have made in learning. Our student having passed through this college becomes a moolahzim.

Having reached this point, three different careers are open to him. He may become a *nāib*, or magistrate of the lowest class, a *cadi*, or magistrate of the fourth class, or a *mudayris*, which is a professor in the colleges. The first is easy to obtain, and the greater part of the students, who have no incidental influence to aid them, or are too impatient to wait for higher honours, are satisfied with this

station. To be a *cadi* requires certain additional studies and a longer period of probation. The office of *mudayris*, or professor, is the hardest to attain, and is the most honourable of all, as it opens the path to the highest offices in the government. Our student, who is supposed to have entered on this career, is required to study seven years longer, and then undergoes an examination upon the principles of Turkish legislation. He becomes at length a *mudayris* of the lowest class. There are ten of these classes, which must all be passed in succession, to the highest, known under the name of *Suleyman iyay*. The time consumed in these several grades varies from twenty to forty years. All have various salaries and perquisites attached to them, in proportion to the elevation of the grade. There were formerly three sets of *mudayris* in various parts of the empire, but at present we understand that there are but two. One educated at Constantinople, and the other from the colleges of Adrianople and Broussa. All these professors form a body of about four hundred individuals. From this our student passes by age and acquirements to become a *mollah*. The *mollahs* are divided into six classes. Through each of the magistracies attached to every class he passes successively, until he reaches the highest, which is called *sheik ul islam*, or *grand mufti*.

The whole body of the *ulemah* enjoy certain prerogatives. They pay no taxes whatever, nor is their property liable to arbitrary confiscation. When they can be made to unite, their power is very great, extending to the dethronement, imprisonment, or exile of the reigning monarch. But, on the other hand, the sultans possess an authority over them, which is more or less exercised according to the temper and genius of the person who happens to occupy the throne. Selim I., Murad, and Mohammed IV. only attacked their prejudices, but others have gone farther. Selim took off the head of the *caziaskeer* of Anatolia, a dignitary second only to the *mufti*. Murad IV. hung up

the cadi of Nicea in all his pontificals, strangled one mufti, and beheaded another. There were formerly great distinctions in dress among the different orders of the ule-mah, but these have all disappeared, and a plain white turban is now the only mark by which they can be identified.

Before alluding to the tribunals of law, properly so called, we shall enumerate the different orders of the Mohammedan priesthood. These are five:—

1. *Sheiks*. This title corresponds to venerable, or to our reverend. The sheik is examined and licensed by the grand mufti. They are all subordinate to the magistrate of the city, who can remove them at pleasure. One is attached to each mosque, and it is their duty to read a sermon every Friday after the midday prayers. These sermons are always written out and read without gestures. They are moral lectures, and never allude to dogmas. The sheiks wear no distinctive dress, and are paid \$150 a year for their services.

2. *Katibs*, or readers. These are appointed by the sultan. Their business is to read the five daily prayers on Fridays alone.

3. *Imans*, or curates. These are chosen by the different congregations. When the women assemble for worship, a female iman is selected. They preside at the daily prayers during the week, and officiate at marriages and funerals.

4. *Muzzeims*. These are the persons who call the faithful to their prayers. Their number is proportioned to the wealth and standing of the mosque. They are chosen by the congregation, and selected chiefly with reference to the strength of their lungs. I have seen very young boys thus employed. They mount the minarets and walk round the balcony, and with hands applied to their ears call the faithful to their prayers. In a city like this, where there are no bells nor carriages, it may readily be imagined that

the shouts of the muzzעים will be heard to a great distance.\*

There is also a class of officers attached to each mosque who superintend the general cleanliness and order of these buildings. They are termed cayyims, and correspond to our sextons.

We will now revert to that body by which the laws are administered, and which forms, according to our view, the Mohammedan hierarchy and judiciary.

1. *The grand musti*, whose station and influence are not unlike those of the ancient pontifex maximus of Rome. Although at the head of the magistracy, he has no separate tribunal. He announces, by order of the sultan, all decrees, decisions, and laws. If he happens to agree with the grand vizier, every thing goes on smoothly; but should there be a difference of opinion between them, one is compelled to retire. He has several officers and bureaus under him. He is considered the highest law authority in the kingdom, and his opinion is of course frequently required. If a person previous to commencing a lawsuit has doubts, he makes a statement of his case in writing, under a fictitious name. This statement is handed to the grand musti, who replies in the shortest possible terms, such as yes or no, it is lawful, it is not lawful, &c. This answer is termed a fetwa, and is produced upon the trial.

\* The call to prayer runs as follows:—"God most high! God most high! There is no god but the one God. Mohammed is the prophet of God! Come to prayer! Come to the temple of life! There is no god but the one God," &c. In order to ascertain the precise hour for prayer, there are almanacs calculated for every latitude. There are also perpetual almanacs, the most esteemed of which is that of Darendayvi, which extends from 1778 through a period of eighty-five lunar years. There are also excellent clocks, chiefly of English manufacture, attached to most of the mosques. It is well known that the first clock striking the hour ever seen in Europe was presented by Haroon al Raschid to Charlemagne, about the commencement of the ninth century.



2. *Cazeskeer of Roumelia.* This title means military judge.

3. *Cazeskeer of Anatolia.* These two, with the Sadreh ahzem, or grand vizier, form a court, which is open every Friday. This is a court of final appeal. All petitions addressed to the sultan are decided here. The business of this court is very extensive, and there are twelve substitutes with their respective bureaus attached.

4. *Sadreh Roum.* Takes cognizance of the laws of inheritance, and of every question relative to the finances. When the grand mufti dies, or is deposed, this officer takes his place.

5. *Sadreh Anadoli.* Has the same powers in the Asiatic provinces.

6. *Istambol cadisy.* A sort of mayor, but with more extensive powers. He is the judicial and municipal head of the metropolis.

7. *Mollahs of Mecca and Medina.* Supreme judges in those places.

8. — of Adrianople, Broussa, Cairo, and Damascus.

9. — of Scutari, Galata, Eyout, Jerusalem, Aleppo, Smyrna, Larissa, and Salonica.

These form the Mohammedan hierarchy and judiciary, and were it not for the existence of an antagonist power in the sultan and his council of state, its influence would be overwhelming. They are, moreover, appointed annually, and none can hold twice, in succession, the same office. Nor is their dignity wounded by passing from a higher to a lower station: for it happens, not unfrequently, that an ex-cazeskeer will be found next year to hold the appointment of sadreh, and so of the others. The chief physician, astronomer,\* and royal preceptor are taken from the

\* Astrology still holds its ground here as it did in the principal courts of Europe 200 years ago. Cases have been known where a high officer of the court has requested the sultan to delay his appointment until he could satisfy himself that the stars were propitious. As late as 1791, a person was

order of mollahs, and they are of course in the line of promotion: at the present time the chief physician Behjet mollah is also one of the cazeskeers, and thus im-bodies in his single person the various attributes of law, physic, and theology. The facetious Quotem with his multifarious functions sinks into nothingness when compared with this living personification of "three single gentlemen rolled into one."

We come now to the magistrates of the second order. These are also mollahs, and amount to seventy in number; they dispense justice in the provinces, and their courts are somewhat analogous to our circuit or district courts. Of the magistrates of the third order, I know little more than that they are called moofetiseh, and that a portion of them decide all cases where church property is concerned. The fourth order is composed of cadis, or judges, in small places which have not reached the dignity of a city. There are about 400 of these in various parts of the empire. They are divided into three departments, and these again are subdivided into 25 classes. They hold their offices for eighteen months.

The fifth and lowest order are composed of naibs, or justices of the peace. Their jurisdiction is extremely limited and local, but they are not removable except for crime.

Having thus given a sketch of the magistracy, it remains to make a few observations upon the laws themselves, and the manner in which they are administered. The Koran is to the Mohammedans what the Levitical law was to the Jews. It is the source and fountain-head of all their jurisprudence. In the course of time many new cases

nominated to the office of reis effendi, who requested a little delay to consult his stars. Before he could obtain the information, another person was appointed to the office. Three years afterward he was nominated again to the same office; but, warned by past experience, he no longer consulted his stars, but accepted the appointment immediately.

have arisen not foreseen by Mohammed, or provided for by the Koran, and these have been decided by fetwas of the ulemah. The fetwas are somewhat similar to our law reports or decisions, but they possess the rare merit of not being encumbered with the hair-splitting opinions of opposing counsel, and are, in fact, confined to simple enunciations of the law in any given case. It of course often happened that these decisions were in direct opposition to each other, and thus arose the necessity for comparing, collating, and harmonizing them with each other. Hence originated various codes of different weight and authority, depending entirely upon the cleverness and abilities of their respective compilers. About 280 years since, the genius of codification in the person of Ibrahim Hahdeby, or Ibrahim of Aleppo, drew up a code of civil and canon law, which is the chief book of jurisprudence now consulted throughout the empire. The judges receive no salaries, and even pay for their offices; of course they soon become rich. In addition to this, they are paid by the following perquisites,—the expenses of the court, which are regulated by law, and paid most iniquitously by the person who gains the cause, the law papers, which are drawn up by the judge, a certain proportion of the fines, and all the fees which accompany the nomination of priests, &c. In courts thus constituted few persons choose to venture, and accordingly we find that in civil suits the parties prefer appealing to a hahkim, or arbitrator. Criminal cases must be decided by a judge. In ancient times the magistrates gave their decisions in the mosques, but now in buildings set apart for that purpose. The courts are open from daylight to dusk; a single judge presides, a secretary writes down the evidence, the parties plead their own cause, and attorneys, solicitors, or counsellors are dispensed with. In the case of women, orphan children, or timid persons, they are accompanied by men skilled in the law; but if they become prosy, or make a parade with their arguments, the judge

dismisses them from the court. It need scarcely be added, that suits are quickly decided, and it is very rarely that they exceed two sittings. False testimony is said to be common in Turkey; but this seems to rest entirely upon the evidence of foreigners, who can scarcely be competent to judge; at any rate, it would seem to be disproved by their strict notions on other points of morality. When a witness is suspected, instead of examining others as to his character and standing, he is examined himself by the judge as to his acquaintance with the precepts and doctrines of the Koran. If he displays an ignorance on these subjects, his testimony is set aside. It is related of Bajazet I., that upon a certain occasion he interested himself warmly in a cause in which one of his favourites was concerned, and offered to give evidence in his favour: "Your testimony cannot be received in a judicial process," was the sturdy reply of the judge; "for your majesty is publicly known to neglect the most important observances of our religion." It is added that this made such a deep impression upon the sultan, that he became thenceforward a model of propriety to his subjects. This story is reported in the annals of the empire, and we may say of it, "Se non é vero e ben trovato."

Real estate is held in this country either as military fiefs or in fee. When property is held in fee, it is often converted into what is called *vakoof*, which is generally done in the following manner. The intention is to put the property beyond the rapacity of judges or pachas, or the profligacy of heirs. The estate is vested in a trustee who may be either the proprietor himself or a stranger. He designates how it shall be inherited for ever by his descendants, leaving a part of it to a mosque for pious or benevolent purposes. There are many forms of *vakoofs*. Sometimes an estate is thus placed for three years, when it reverts entirely to the original heirs, but it is oftener perpetual. The most usual form of *vakoof* is the following.

The owner of an estate worth \$10,000 gives it to a mosque, and receives in lieu of it \$1500. He then holds his estate from the mosque, and pays it a certain interest upon the money actually advanced. In default of heirs the entire property reverts to the mosque. Foreigners can hold real estate in the name of their wives, if these latter are born in Turkey. They may also dispose of their property in vakoof even to a Christian church, and the government will only interfere at the request of the legal heirs. The Turks appear to have something analogous to the statute of mortmain, for no legacy or donation made by a sick person is valid except to one-third of the amount bequeathed.

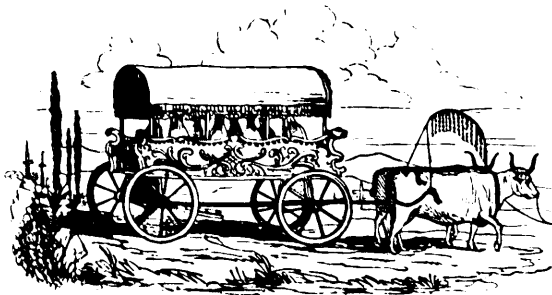
The funds arising from these vakoofs are enormous, and are managed by a particular department. In times of emergency the surplus is loaned to the sultan, who is solemnly pledged to repay it.

Notwithstanding the apparent fairness of their courts of law, and the thorough training which all the judges must receive, it is a striking commentary upon the insecure tenure of property when we see so much of it conveyed to mosques in order to obtain protection. It is supposed that more than one-half of all the property, particularly in the large cities, is thus held under the power of the ulemah. The church, in fact, is a great *mont de piété*, or pawn-brokers shop, with this difference, that she holds not only all the goods and chattels, but a great part of the real estate, of the empire under her control. The reigning sultan is fully aware of this rotten part of his institutions, and has laboured to correct the evil. Let us hope that his efforts may prove successful.

## CHAPTER XLIV.

Kafe—Arrabah—Forest of Belgrade—Turkish Soldier—Military Rank—  
Conjecture as to the Number of Turkish Troops—Turkish Marriage—  
Bridal Portion—Appearance of the Bride—Mehemet Ali of Egypt—  
Turkish Diplomacy.

IMITATING the example of our Turkish friends, we determined this morning to make an excursion to Belgrade, and spend the day near one of those artificial reservoirs which supply the city with water. A large American party was assembled at Buyukdery, and all the requisite preparations for a glorious *kafe* were in readiness at an early hour. An arabah, drawn by two milk-white oxen, was engaged for the female part of the company, while the gentlemen were mounted on a motley variety of nags, of all ages and conditions. A sumpter horse, laden with eatables in the shape of Westphalia hams, partridges, &c., with a due proportion of choice wines, brought up the rear of our cavalcade, which drew all the idlers to their windows as we slowly passed the streets of Buyukdery.



Arrabah, or Turkish Coach.

The arabah, which we have attempted to sketch, is drawn by two white oxen, with their tails fastened to a long bow proceeding from the necks of the animals, and decorated with a great quantity of variegated tassels. It is impossible to see those covered wagons without being reminded of their ancient origin; for they undoubtedly represent the *carpentus*, or *currus arcuatus*, used by the Roman matrons. They form the only vehicles for the transportation of families or goods, and during many centuries it seems never to have entered the heads of the people of these countries that horses might be attached to these wagons with great advantage.

Our procession moved slowly over the plain of Buyukdery, and ascended the hilly road which leads under the aqueduct of Batchkiery, occasionally stopping to gather the blackberries, which are plentiful in the hedges along the path. After riding some distance through the forest already described, we passed the village of Belgrade, which we left on our right, and then entered a wood, where scarcely a vestige of road could be discovered. The underwood had been removed, and remnants of ornamental fences in various places showed that much attention had at one time been paid to the decoration of this spot. Our course lay over rustling autumnal leaves, which were now falling thick and fast. At the distance of half a mile from Belgrade we reached a small *bendt* over the stream, once designated as the *Hydraulis*. The principal trees here were hornbeam, *Carpinus betulus*. About a mile and a half farther on we reached another *bendt*, which was our place of rendezvous. This *bendt* fills up the gorge of a narrow wooded valley, and the contrast between the glittering whiteness of this colossal marble structure and the green verdure surrounding it was not the least striking peculiarity in the scene. It is 350 feet in length, 35 wide on the top, and 80 feet above the bottom of the valley. The date, 1233, upon a marble upright slab, would seem to indicate

that it had not been built more than fourteen years ago ; but this date may possibly refer merely to some recent repairs.

Upon a sort of marble throne or platform on the top of this reservoir our attendants quickly arranged cushions and our picnic dinner, and immediately kindled a fire for the preparation of coffee. Here we partook of a repast which the most fastidious would not have disdained, and which certainly lost none of its relish from our previous exercise and the novelty of our present situation. Our conversation naturally reverted to home, and many a cheerful glass was dedicated in this Turkish forest to our friends on the other side of the Atlantic. The younger ones of the party—the polyglot children of Mrs. G. and the interesting little Emilie B.—amused themselves with various sports among the woods until the declining sun admonished us to hasten our departure.

Upon our return we met with several soldiers rambling along the road. They were extremely civil, and returned our salutation with expressions of kindness and good-will. They were, as usual when not on duty, without their side-arms, in compliance with an order of the sultan, which is now rigorously enforced.

It is impossible to estimate with any tolerable precision the number of troops actually on foot in the Turkish empire. Various travellers have given statements which profess to be accurate ; but, as they are only conjectures, we shall pass them over in silence. We have frequently asked the question of Turkish officers of high military rank, and their contradictory answers have convinced us that the number of troops in service is entirely unknown to the Turks themselves. We may, however, form some estimate of the troops they can call forth, by referring to the total population of Turkey in Europe and Asia, which, according to Hassel, amounts to twenty-three millions. It is not unreasonable to conjecture that this would furnish a



million of warriors, and upon extraordinary occasions even more. The following list contains the several ranks of the army, which the military reader will perceive is organized nearly upon the French model. It may be mentioned that *kaimakan* means literally deputy.

1. Sadr ahzam, Grand Vizier, or Generalissimo.
2. Seraskier, General-in-chief.
3. Mirimeeran, Lieutenant-general.
4. Kaimakan, Lieutenant-general of division.
5. Meerleevay, Brigadier-general.
6. ——— kaimakan, Lieutenant-general of brigade.
7. Meerallay, Colonel of a regiment.
8. ——— kaimakan, Lieutenant-colonel.
9. Been bashee, Chief of battalion.
10. Kol aghassee, Major.
11. Yoose bashee, Captain.
12. ——— kaimakan.
13. Bash chawsh, Serjeant-major.
14. Chawsh, Serjeant.
15. Own bashee, Corporal.
16. Faytee, Private.

The brigade consists usually of three regiments, the regiment of four and sometimes five battalions, the battalion of ten companies, and each company of 100 men; so that a Turkish brigade may be said to contain, when complete, 12,000 men.

The different arms are infantry, cavalry, artillery, and bombardiers: the latter seems to comprise the duties of the engineer and ordnance department. I have seen in the paper published here a notice of the 12th brigade of infantry and of the 9th regiment of cavalry, and if these are the highest, and the regiments are only half-full, which we presume is the case, we shall have a total of 72,000 infantry and 27,000 cavalry. The *topegees*, or foot artillery, are said to amount to 7,000, and the mounted artillery to about 2,000 men; the bombardiers have about the same number.

Altogether, then, we may estimate the number of regular troops of all kinds at between 100,000 and 110,000 men, of which 40,000 are now stationed in and about Constantinople. There is, perhaps, nearly as large a number of irregular troops; but, as they do more harm than good, it is scarcely worth our while to mention them. The Turkish soldier receives his clothes, two meals a day, and \$1 10 per month for his pay. His uniform is very plain and neat; but he always looks shabby about the feet, in consequence of the slipshod manner in which he wears his shoes. The different grades are distinguished by various insignia on the breast. Epaulets are entirely unknown. In the almost total absence of almost all correct information, this sketch is presented as the nearest approximation to the actual state and organization of the military force of the empire.

*Monday.* An unusual scampering backwards and forwards before the door of the American palace at Buyukdery, and a bustle in the lower part of the village, announce that some important event is about to transpire. The *cavass*, or diplomatic harlequin attached to the embassy, informs us that a Turkish marriage is about to be celebrated, and that one of the parties is no less a personage than the eldest son of Hadji Mustafa the chief municipal officer of the village. During my residence here, a sort of acquaintance had been formed between honest Mustafa and myself, and his good-nature and politeness had indeed rendered him a general favourite. We accordingly proceeded to his house, which, on this occasion, was open to all comers. We were shown into the upper part of the house, but the attendants would not allow us to take off our shoes, as we wished to do, in order to comply with their customs. We were then introduced into the chief apartment where the old gentleman was in readiness to receive company, and who presented us to the bridegroom, a young man about eighteen years of age. He was dressed of course in his best, and a turban of spotless white shaded features

which were remarkably regular and agreeable. The bride herself could hardly have displayed more diffidence than this young man; and we may in general observe, that young Turks are more quiet and orderly in their deportment, and more respectful to their parents, and to their elders in years, than the youth of any country we have ever seen. The room was filled with articles of dress, piled up on shelves, and their quantity and variety gave it the appearance of a well-stocked shop in the bazar. These were from the young lady and her friends, all of whom contribute something towards housekeeping upon such occasions. These articles all belong to the wife in case of the death of her husband, or of being divorced from him. The Franks here in their marriage contracts, which are always drawn up in writing with great formality, have a practice somewhat similar, but which is carried to an extent the most ridiculous and absurd imaginable.\* In the outer hall our attention was called to a formidable collection of pots, kettles, stewpans, and all the numerous et ceteras of a complete kitchen. After partaking of sweetmeats, pipes, and coffee, we were permitted to depart, but Mustafa requested us to

\* I have before me now a form of the marriage contract, in which one of the parties was no less a personage than a drogoman of one of the European powers.

By the first article the parents agree, upon the signing of the contract, to pay down 10,000 piasters as a dowry, and also clothes, jewels, &c. valued at 17,000, making a total of 27,000 piasters. After their death they engage that the bride shall be put in possession of half their property. By the second article the young man engages (*par une marque de sincère affection*) to assure to his wife in case of his death the sum of 6000 piasters; and the wife on her part promises in case of a similar event (*dont Dieu veuille les préserver tous les deux*), to dispose of three-fourths of her dowry and trousseau.

By the last article, the future husband agrees to give (*par marque ultérieure d'attention envers son épouse*) the sum of seventy-five cents per month as (*geib hazzlik*) pocket-money. Then follows the trousseau, or inventory of the young woman's wardrobe, jewels, &c., with the price attached to each, comprising chemises, towels, stockings, slippers, mattresses, fans, gloves, and petticoats, amounting to the sum of 17,000 piasters.

witness the religious ceremony, which would take place in the village mosque that evening.

We found at the door five arabahs drawn by oxen, which were decorated with ribands, flowers, &c., and the arabahs were filled with the female relatives of the young man, about to go in search of the bride who resided in a village just above Buyukdery. We saw them returning in the afternoon with the bride, and the procession by this time had swelled out into quite respectable dimensions. First came a party of musicians, accompanying their vile nasal yells upon instruments still more detestable. Then followed the men on horseback, and the procession closed with a dozen arabahs filled with women. That which carried the bride was closed all around, but the others were open. The men seemed to be particularly anxious to display their horsemanship, and even the old papas of the respective parties exhibited a pardonable vanity in showing off their activity. In one of these attempts "to witch the world with noble horsemanship," the worthy old Mustafa was sent frisking through the air over his horse's head, but fortunately without injury, and he joined in the general laugh occasioned by his accident.

Having given them sufficient time to reach home and settle down comfortably, we accompanied the ladies on their visit to the bride. On our way we met the bridegroom coming from the bath, in state; that is to say, he was preceded by musicians, accompanied by his friends, and followed by all the rabble of the village. He looked sheepish enough, and appeared to be heartily ashamed of the conspicuous part he was compelled to play.

While waiting in the street for the ladies, our worthy friend Mustafa came out, and as, from a wish to comply with their customs, we resisted his invitation to enter, he ordered a coffee-house to be opened in the neighbourhood where we might remain until the ladies appeared. According to their report they found the bride nearly stifled under the

weight of her wedding dresses. She was apparently eighteen years old, as fat as a seal, with a pretty face, as far as it could be discerned under the various disfigurements with which fancy or fashion had contrived to disguise it. The eyebrows were united into one broad streak of black by the use of *soormay*, and various bits of gold foil, or gilt pieces of paper, were stuck upon different parts of her face. The ceremony in the evening was simple; a prayer was recited by the iman, and, upon leaving the mosque, the friends of the bridegroom struck him lustily over the shoulders for good luck, as Mustafa took the trouble to explain to us.

Reports of a vague nature have been in circulation for several weeks respecting the Pacha of Egypt, but, until to-day, they have been deemed unworthy of credit. It is now, however, well understood that Mehemet Ali, the present viceroy of Egypt, has declared war against the Pacha of Acre, and has already commenced hostile operations.

It is said by some that Mehemet is urged on to his present course by the influence of England, who wishes him to be involved in an open war with the sultan, and thus free Egypt from his presence, where it is surmised that England purposes to interpose her own barriers against any future attempts upon her eastern possessions. Others assert that the present difficulty is a mere preconcerted scheme got up between the two pachas, and that Mehemet's ultimate designs aspire even to the throne of Turkey. Both speculations are, in all probability, equally absurd, although they are maintained with great positiveness. But whatever may be the real motive, the government is apparently in great trepidation, and an unusual activity prevails in the arsenal and other public works. The fleet is ordered to be got ready for sea, the men are employed night and day, and any one who was ignorant of the Turkish character would suppose that some important step would be taken immediately. Not a single thing, I now venture to pre-

dict, will be done for months to come. However pressing the emergency, however urgent the occasion, the eternal pipe must be smoked, and a campaign will often be fought before they have had time to lay the plans. The ordinary business of life is conducted upon the principle that hasty decisions are incompatible with the exercise of sound judgment, and of the value of time the Turks do not appear to have the smallest fraction of an idea. Their favourite proverb, that "in a cart drawn by oxen you may overtake a hare," illustrates in a striking degree the dilatory habits of the people.

To a bystander nothing can be more entertaining than the manner in which Turks settle, or, I should rather say, discuss the most urgent matters. The subject is examined and considered in all its bearings with acuteness, but nothing definite is determined upon except that both parties exclaim *Mashallah!* or, God is great. At the next interview the subject is again canvassed, and dismissed with *Inshallah!* if God pleases. The next interview terminates with *Allah kayrim!* or, God is merciful; but still nothing is decided upon. Another conference, if the business is of a very pressing nature, concludes with the important exclamation *Bukallum!* we shall see; and thus the business drags on from week to week, and from month to month, until positive necessity compels them to bring it to a rapid and often lame conclusion. This tardiness in business arises from no want of capacity, nor from indecision of character; but simply because they consider it indecorous to decide promptly. It is a part and parcel of the oriental character, and seems to be a sort of parody upon the *festina lente* of the Romans. But whatever may be the cause, its effects upon the empire are apparent. The wheels of government move slowly, and at times appear almost stopped. It requires no prophet to inform us that in a contest with any European nation, they will be infallibly beaten, unless more vigour and promptness are infused into their public councils. We feel some interest in the exist-

ence of Turkey as an independent nation, but at the same time cannot conceal our misgivings, that although now upheld by the conflicting interests of the various European powers, the time is not far distant when she will be crushed by the colossal power of Russia, and her fate will certainly be hastened, if not almost invited, by Mashallah, Inshallah, and Bakallum.

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## CHAPTER XLV.

**Leave Buyukdery—Reflections upon the Diplomatic Corps—Their sovereign Authority—Spies—Etiquette—Bells—Daring Innovation of the American Minister—Ride over the Thracian Hills—The Baroness of Ottenfels—Tribute of Thanks—Gossip of an old Turk—Troops of Selim burnt alive—Ocmeidan, or Place of Arrows.**

I leave this half town and half country village with feelings of regret; these naturally arise from my departure being the prelude to a still longer separation from friends whose kindness and attentions have supplied, in part, the absence of nearer and dearer friends at home. I should be wanting in the ordinary feelings of gratitude not to acknowledge my grateful sense of obligations to our minister, Commodore Porter, and to the kindness uniformly displayed towards me by the family of our missionary, Mr. Goodell. To the estimable and learned chaplain of the British embassy, whose long residence here has rendered him familiar with the manners of the people, I am under pleasing obligations for pointing out various objects of inquiry, and for correcting some errors into which a traveller new to the country may naturally be supposed to fall. I hope it will not be considered as transgressing the rules of propriety if I add my thanks to his excellent and intelligent daughter, for reminding me frequently of my own dear countrywomen.

With this list my catalogue must close, with the single exception of the family of Navoni, where I once had the

honour of winning a piaster, at *ecarté*\*, from the third drogoman of the English embassy, and of losing as much to the second drogoman of the representative of the imperial house of Austria. I might possibly be reminded of the fable of sour grapes were I to assert that an acquaintance with these mock representatives of majesty was not desired on my part. They were apparently too important personages in their own eyes, and too insignificant in those of a busy traveller, to render their society desirable on the score of either entertainment or instruction. A foreign ambassador here, is, however, clothed with powers as extraordinary as they are disgraceful to the Turkish government. These powers extend to the imprisonment and punishment of their own subjects, and are precisely such as would be asked if a treaty was to be made with a horde of barbarous savages who set at defiance all laws, whether human or divine. Instead of exercising jurisdiction over foreigners in their own territory, and making them amenable to the laws of the country, the Turks have weakly given up this important point, and the consequences may readily be imagined. If a foreigner commits a robbery, he is given up to his ambassador, who may pardon or punish him as he thinks proper; nay, further, if a foreigner kills a Turk, his own ambassador alone can take cognizance of the offence; and, should a Turk kill a foreigner, the ambassador has as much influence in obtaining a decree against him as any Turkish court of justice. The consequences of such extraordinary privileges may be readily conceived in a place like Constantinople, which receives all the miscreants and

\* The usual amusements of the diplomatists are *ecarté* and *ombree-chinoises*. As managed here, the Turkish Harlequin, Kara Guez, and his worthy compeer, Hadji Ayeheevat, or Pantaloon, set all decency at defiance. An acquaintance, who remarked upon the grossness of such an exhibition, was informed, that it had actually been pruned of its *wittiest* parts on account of the presence of the ladies.



fugitives from justice, of the countries bordering on the Mediterranean. It has likewise a most unfavourable influence upon the relations between Turkey and other European powers; for in its present enlightened state it cannot regard with any complacency the exercise of foreign authority within its own dominions. Another unfortunate result of these unlucky concessions is to be found in the little army of spies which, under the present system, is to be found attached to each embassy. Although the operations of the Turkish government are attempted to be concealed under a veil of mystery, yet there is no country in the world where every act of the government is sooner known, or where even its most remote intentions are sooner detected. Armed with such sovereign powers, it is not surprising that the ambassadors should fancy themselves to be kings and emperors; and their consequential airs find imitators among their train of dependants.

Ambassadors, residents, and envoys have the privilege of exporting and importing whatever they may please to call their own, which, according to the testimony of a traveller who in general is very severe upon the nation, "is a civility and generosity of the Turks not to be paralleled in Europe." Sir John Chardin relates an anecdote of a French minister at Constantinople, which illustrates the power assumed by these foreigners. During the Venetian war against the Turks, the French were suspected of secretly assisting the former. A French officer, named Vertamont, in the Venetian service, came to Constantinople, charged with private letters and despatches to the French ambassador. Upon his arrival, he adopted the turban, and took the letters to the grand vizier, who became furious at this act of perfidy on the part of the French. Many of the letters were, however, in cipher, and there was not a man in the empire capable of deciphering them. At this juncture, a poor but clever Frenchman living at Galata, who had been treated with great neglect by the ambassador,

caused it to be intimated to him that he could get any sum of money by deciphering the letters in the hands of the vizier. This was his ruin; he was immediately invited to the palace, and was put to death by the French ambassador, De la Haye.

Not many centuries ago, a Quaker came to Constantinople to convert the sultan; he was imprisoned for several months, and was finally given over to the English ambassador to be questioned as to his sanity. Upon his refusal to take off his hat to the ambassador, the poor Quaker was bastinadoed on the spot. By a curious perversion of language, this Lord Winchelsea is spoken of as an English *nobleman*.

In the palace of every foreign ambassador there is a reception-room, fitted up with a throne, and decorated with a full-length portrait of the king whom he represents; and in this room a solemn audience is granted to those who may have a petition to present to either of these miniature kings of Pera. The puerile and absurd points of etiquette which reign here, as they have been detailed to me, would hardly be credited in any country where common sense could be supposed to have any influence. For instance, bells are offensive to the Turks, and are generally prohibited; of course, every embassy is provided with one of ample dimensions, and by a system, ingeniously enough contrived, all the neighbourhood are notified when his excellency enters or leaves his palace, when he gets up and takes his meals, and likewise of the rank and quality of his visitors. I am happy to state that our own minister has introduced an innovation which may eventually find imitators, but which is now very generally regarded as a most desperate and dangerous measure; he has actually dispensed with a bell, and Heaven only knows what disasters are predicted in Buyukdery, as likely to ensue from this undiplomatic proceeding.

After crossing the valley of Buyukdery our road lay

through a deep ravine, whose precipitous sides exhibited the fantastical contortions of argillaceous slate underlying horizontal strata of limestone, which gives the name of Karetch Boornoo to this place. These strata or layers were distinct above, but gradually approached until they became a blue compact mass. We now ascended a mountain of considerable elevation, and found ourselves on the best carriage-road we have hitherto met with in Turkey. This road winds over the summits of lofty hills, and preserves its elevation to the heights of Pera. The hills were covered with heaths of various species; the *Erica arborea* was in full bloom, and carried me back in memory to bygone times, when I had roamed over the bleak and heath-covered hills of Scotland. Here, too, seemed to flourish the strawberry Arbutus (*A. unedo*), which now seemed to offer its luscious scarlet fruit to the tired traveller, and now bent over the roadside under the weight of its snowy blossoms. It would be meritorious to introduce this beautiful shrub on our own hill-sides. It appears to thrive on a barren soil; it might advantageously occupy the place of our formal and solitary mullen, and would contrast beautifully with our showy kalmias. In Dalmatia large quantities of sugar and brandy are obtained from this fruit. It is only about five years since that this manufacture has been attempted; and I am informed that already more than eight thousand barrels of brandy are annually produced. One thousand pounds of the fruit will give a barrel of spirit; and by the ordinary process 20 lbs. of fruit furnish between 4 and 5 lbs. of a very pure sugar and a highly aromatic syrup. Nor does the usefulness of this plant end here; it bears most plentifully in those seasons which are unfavourable to the olive and the grape, and thus compensates the farmer for the loss of his ordinary crops. Its leaves are extensively used in tanning.

Half-way between Buyukdery and Pera we stopped at a neat little building, erected at the expense of the wife of the

Austrian ambassador, or, as he is called here, the internuncio. Under the auspices of Madame la Baronne d'Ottensfels, a slight fall of water in the aqueduct which supplies Pera has been converted into a delightful fountain for the use of the wayworn traveller, and an inscription in Italian, Turkish, and Greek requests the benevolent passer-by to sprinkle a little water over the trees which have been tastefully planted around by her own hands. In front of the building a white marble slab is surmounted by a dial, with a motto in Turkish and Latin, purporting that "the hours glide away, but that the memory of the benefactor may perchance remain."

The lodge is kept in order by an elderly Turk, who also supplies pipes and coffee for a trifling gratuity. As neither myself nor my companion were aquarians, we requested something more stimulating, which in a foreign establishment like this we naturally expected to obtain. Honest Mehemet, however, replied that he kept nothing of the kind; and to our further inquiries replied, that he saw no difference in criminality between selling wine and drinking it. The old man had evidently picked up some information from the numerous Europeans with whom he had necessarily come in contact; for upon learning that we were Americans, he inquired if it was true that we had sent out missionaries to make converts of the Turks, in ships laden with wine and ardent spirits. Although we were unable directly to controvert the fact, yet we succeeded in convincing him that such reports were grossly exaggerated.

We left the place with a feeling of respect and gratitude towards the benevolent Madame la Baronne d'Ottensfels, which we should be churlish not to record.

We passed, on our left, the ruins of barracks whose history is connected with a horrid catastrophe. Here a large body of troops belonging to the ill-fated Selim, after an obstinate resistance against the Janizaries, were finally burnt alive. It was one of the many atrocious acts of that law-

less corps, which was finally and awfully avenged upon their own heads; and every friend of humanity must rejoice that such miscreants were extirpated from the earth.

Our road, still preserving its elevation, now wound along the head of a glen which gives rise to one of the two classical streams which empty into the Golden Horn. Near this was a marble column, about sixteen feet high, which serves as a target for the exercise of the bow. The adjoining fields are covered with these targets, and the vicinity is called the *ocmeidan*, or the place of arrows, which has been frequently confounded by hasty travellers with the *atmeidan* or hippodrome in the metropolis. At this place the reigning sultan frequently indulges in this ancient warlike exercise, and has the reputation of drawing a longer bow than any man in his dominions.

We entered Pera (now almost entirely rebuilt) near the cavalry barracks, and saw the troops on parade. The horses were not showy, but stout, and appeared to be carelessly groomed. The men had discarded the high Turkish saddle, and appeared to be good horsemen.

Two English missionaries have arrived from Syria. They appeared in full Asiatic costume, which is certainly extremely picturesque and becoming, and at the same time, as they confessed, excessively inconvenient, although they had worn it for years. It may serve to convey some idea of the change in costume here of late, when it is stated that their oriental dress excited almost as much attention here as it would have done in any other city of Europe. After a few days they were glad to exchange them for English clothes, in order to escape observation.

## CHAPTER XLVI.

Turkish Bath—Its Antiquity—Turkish Naval Officer—Battle of Navarino—  
Turkish Caricature—Sketch of the Battle.

ALL travellers love to expatiate upon the delights of a Turkish bath, as the *ne plus ultra* of human enjoyments. We have frequently wished, during our residence here, to indulge in this agreeable operation; but, aside from the necessary exposure in a public bath, we have been hitherto prevented from entering them by the remonstrances of our friends, on the score of the plague, which has prevailed more or less since our arrival. The kind offer of a friend, one of the merchant princes of the Fanar, removed every objection on the score of exposure to the plague, by politely placing his own private bath at our disposal. We accordingly proceeded this morning to his house, which is situated in the Fanar. We landed in the rear of a dingy-looking building, which, although of large dimensions, had a very mean and shabby exterior. This appearance of poverty, although no longer necessary, as in former times, to avoid exciting the envy or cupidity of the Turks, is still kept up by many of the Greek subjects. Upon entering the gate, which stands on the wretched wooden wharf, we were struck with the order and beauty of the small garden through which we passed to enter the house. Although the season was far advanced, altheas, artemisias, and roses were in full bloom, and in the greatest profusion. We entered a spacious hall paved with marble, and ornamented with a bubbling fountain, and passing through a series of neatly-furnished apartments, we entered a saloon, which, although fitted up with a divan in the oriental style, was

replete with every thing in accordance with our ideas of comfort in America. After partaking of sweetmeats, coffee, and a pipe, we were conducted to that part of the house where the bath is situated. We undressed in an ante-room which was furnished with couches and beds, and entered a small room which at first appeared to be uncomfortably warm, but after being in it for a few minutes this feeling went off. We then entered the bathing-room itself, which was ten feet square, arched overhead, and lighted from the dome. Upon entering, a pair of wooden clogs are put on, to avoid the marble pavement, which is too hot to be touched with the naked feet. A plain wooden divan or raised seat, about six inches high, occupies two sides of the room. After sitting here a few minutes, the perspiration began to pour from our bodies, and upon turning a small brass cock in the wall, hot water issued forth, which filled the room with vapour. The bath attendant now entered, naked like ourselves, and commenced that operation which in public baths has been the subject of special admiration by travellers. With a sort of glove of camlet, made expressly for this purpose, the attendant commences a series of frictions from head to foot, which strips off sheets of matter deposited by insensible perspiration. This operation lasts about half an hour, and during its continuance no water is used; towards the close, however, we were deluged with basins of hot water, and this finished the mere bathing part of the affair. We then returned to the second room, which is not of so high a temperature as the bath. Here an ample supply of towels, and vases filled with cologne and orange-flower water, furnished us with the means of being dried and perfumed; and then, enveloped in robes-de-chambre, we returned to the first room, where, reposing on the divan for some time, we gave way to that exhilaration of spirits which a Turkish bath is sure to inspire. Here we partook of a glass of rosoglio, and then resumed our ordinary dresses. The construction of these baths is very simple.

The heated air from a furnace is conducted by flues under the bath and middle room, and a large sheet-iron drum over the furnace communicates with the bathing-room by a door or valves, which furnishes a convenient mode of raising or lowering the temperature. The expense of constructing one in a private house need not exceed \$150; and, independent of the pleasurable sensations to which they give rise, their importance in relation to health and cleanliness can hardly be overrated. Many persons in our country appear to labour under the singular delusion, that when they have jumped into a tub of hot water, and hastily dried themselves afterward, they have actually taken a bath. Nor must those who complacently talk of washing themselves by plunging and splashing about in a stream of water, be permitted to remain in so pitiable an error. A half-hour's sojourn in a bath such as I have just described will be sufficient to correct such miserable infatuation. While I am writing I feel a tinge of shame at the idea of having so long mingled in society, and fancying myself in a fit condition to associate with my fellow-men. My companion, one of the most scrupulously neat men with whom I am acquainted, exclaimed upon perceiving the impurities which were peeled off in large flakes from his body in the bath, "This is worse than the solar microscope. I shall never persuade myself that I can be clean again."

It is usual to speak of these baths as of Turkish origin, but in strictness they must be attributed to the Greeks, for I have seen in buildings undoubtedly of the first ages of the Grecian empire, remains of baths constructed like those of the present day. In the works of Cicero and Pliny the reader will find descriptions of Roman baths which correspond in almost every particular with those now in use in Constantinople.

I became acquainted a few days ago with a Turkish naval officer, who seemed to be desirous of learning how the battle of Navarino was regarded in America. I in-



formed him, that with the exception of a few Greek fanatics there was but one opinion about it, and that it was regarded as an outrage upon humanity, only to be paralleled by the pitiful subterfuges under which its atrocity was attempted to be veiled.

In the examination which we propose to make of this nefarious transaction, we regret being obliged to censure one of our own citizens, whose acquirements are the just boast of his countrymen, but who, from the peculiar direction of his early studies, is scarcely impartial on the subject of Greece. In an elaborate article in the *North American Review* for 1829, he refuses to admit the right of the sultan to terminate these troubles in his own dominions in his own way. That we may not be suspected of misstating his views we shall quote his own words:—

“It is an admitted principle of the law of nations, that any power, or any number of powers, may interfere in the concerns of any other power or powers, when required by the great paramount law of nature as well as of nations, that of self-preservation. The question, when self-preservation does require this interference, is indeed a question of *fact* very delicate, and on which the parties are not like to be agreed. But the *principle* is clear. Now the Turks do or do not belong to that great family of nations whose assent, implied or express, has been given to the law of nations as understood in the modern civilized world. If they do, then we say as a principle the right of the allies to interfere is clear, supposing a state of facts to exist authorizing the application of the principle. If the Turks do not consider themselves a party bound by the law of nations, then we do not know how they can complain of any policy on the part of the other powers, which those powers think it their duty to pursue. The ulterior question, whether the Turks are or are not under the law of nations, admits of a question of some nicety. If adhering to practices forbidden by the clearest principles of that law ought to exclude

them, they are excluded. They have continued to imprison ambassadors, on a rupture with the powers they represent, till the present year. If having entered into treaty with civilized states be sufficient ground to include them under the law of nations, they are of course included. Mr. Ward, the respectable historian of the law of nations, lays down the proposition, 'that what is commonly called the law of nations is not the law of all nations, but only of such *sets* or *classes* of them as are united together by similar religions and systems of morality,' and most of the standard writers on the subject have dropped hints to the same import."

It requires little attention to perceive that the whole drift of the reviewer is to throw a doubt upon the fact whether the Turks form a part of the great family of nations; or, in other words, an attempt is made to outlaw them from all civilized society. We need hardly advert to the fact that treaties of amity and commerce have been formed by all Christian nations with the Turks, and history teaches us that Christian and Turk have frequently been found fighting side by side, and under the same banner.\* This idle declamation about the law of nations is best answered by an appeal to an author whose authority will not, we presume, be questioned. "The Ottoman Porte, which at all times has given an example of moderation to the more civilized nations of Europe, was the *first* to abandon the ancient maxim sanctioned by the treaties before alluded to. In 1604, the Porte agreed with Henry IV. King of France, that the French flag should protect the goods and effects of enemies from seizure. The same privilege was granted by the Sultan Achmet in 1612 in the treaty with Holland,

\* Allusion is here made to the open and covert alliances between the Greek emperors and the Saracens against the crusaders; to the alliances between the Greeks and Turks against the Latin princes; and to the numerous battles in which the Turks were aided by the Hungarians under the valiant and patriotic Tekeli.

and with still greater extension, since it exempted from confiscation the effects of friends found on board the ships of pirates." Subsequent treaties of a similar import were made with the other maritime powers of Europe. Since that period, so glorious, according to Azuni, for nations whom we call barbarous, the flag of a friendly nation was in all the treaties of navigation and commerce a sufficient security for the goods of enemies. Our own distinguished jurist Kent, in relation to this same subject, has expressed himself in equally strong terms of the brilliant example set by Turkey on all international questions.\*

But admitting the Turks to belong to the great family of nations, the reviewer observes that the allies had a right to interfere. Granted. The Turks and Greeks were engaged in a bloody conflict, and in the course of it the Greeks became pirates, thieves, and murderers; once tasting blood and spoil, it was a matter of indifference to them whether it came from foe or friend. The allies, in such a state of things, had clearly a right to interfere,—but how? By seizing and stringing up to the yard-arm every Greek found in such enterprises? Oh, no! for the honour of the Homeric hexameter, for the dignity of the divine philosophy of Greece, by the love ye bear for the glorious acatalectic iambic trimeter, touch not a hair of the heads of the long-haired race! Interfere, but let it commence and end with the Turks. Watch your opportunity until they can be taken unawares, and then exterminate the wretches, who have "a different religion or system of morality."

The reviewer proceeds to state, that whether the Turks are or are not under the law of nations is a question of some nicety, and the only fact alleged against them is that till the present year they have imprisoned ambassadors. If the author of this article was as familiar with Hume as he is with Herodotus, if in his fondness for ancient history he

\* Kent, Commentaries on American Law, i. 127.

was more familiar with the modern, he would never have cited this as a charge against the civilization of the Turks. Has he never heard that an Emperor of Austria seized as a prisoner, not an ambassador merely,\* but a sovereign king, who foolishly thought he might securely trust to his sacred character as a soldier of the cross, a pilgrim from the Holy Land? Let him read the history of Richard of the Lion-heart. He will learn, that after a long and severe imprisonment, in spite of appeals to knightly honour or to the tie of a common faith, Richard was tried for his life upon the most contemptible charges, and was only ultimately released upon the payment of 100,000 marks of silver. Or, if he wishes another case, we can furnish him one from the annals of the same empire. To be sure, it was only Turkish ambassadors who were imprisoned; and "how can they complain of any policy on the part of the other powers, which those powers think it their duty to pursue?"

We refer now more particularly to the imprisonment by Austria of Turkish ambassadors, as related by Ricaut. We have never seen the English original, but presume that the French translation will be received as authentic.†

"Il (the Emperor of Austria) fit emprisonner les ambassadeurs Turcs dans le château de Puttendorf, ou ils furent retenus *quelques années*; contre le droit des gens. Il est vrai que les Turcs avoient souvent fait des grandes indignités aux personnes des ambassadeurs, mais cela ne s'étoit encore pratiqué parmi les princes Chrétiens et surtout par ceux de la maison d'Autriche, renommée par toute la terre pour sa pitié, sa justice, et sa clemence!!!"

It is scarcely worth while to notice the complacency with which the reviewer quotes Mr. Ward, to prove that the law of nations only applies to "those sets or classes who

\* James's History of Chivalry and the Crusades.

† Hist. de l'Empire Ottoman, par le Chevalier Ricaut. La Haye, 1709. Vol. iii. p. 200.

are united by similar religions and systems of morality;" for he afterward admits that Ward considers the Turks as having acceded to the laws of nations by the negotiation of treaties. But the "respectable Mr. Ward," and the equally respectable reviewer, have taken dangerous ground in setting up a difference in views of religion and morality as sufficient to exclude nations from the pale of civilized society. The views of religion entertained by the reviewer himself, and of a large portion of the community to which he belongs, differ as much from those held by Christian Greece, as the religion of the Turks differs from that of the Portuguese. If then a Portuguese or Romaic tribunal were to try him by this standard, he would be placed beyond the salutary operations of the law of nations, and in fact out of the pale of civilized society.

From this ingenious but pitiable tissue of sophisms, it is refreshing to turn to the masterly and manly view taken of this very subject of foreign interference by a writer in the *English Quarterly Review*. From his statement we condense the following account of the Navarino affair, which is attempted to be disguised under the obscure and mendacious periphrasis of "interference,"

"*A treaty of pacification*" between England, Russia, and France was signed July 6, 1827, to put a stop to the effusion of blood, as was impudently pretended. By this treaty it was agreed that if the Ottoman Porte does not make peace, the contracting parties will take immediate measures for an *approximation*! with the Greeks. Art. 2d. declares that they will exert all the means in their power to prevent collision between the parties, "without however taking any part in the hostilities of the two contending parties."

In pursuance of these measures of *approximation*,\*

\* This pretty phrase, "measures of approximation," reminds one of a similar diplomatic expression used against the Turks some years previous. Under the polite declaration that "the armies and fleets of the allies would receive a new impulse," a Russian horde overran Moldavia, and an English fleet attempted to bombard Constantinople.

the business was intrusted to the management of the three officers commanding the naval forces of England, France, and Russia, who were of course peculiarly fitted for pacific operations. As their masters had solemnly sworn to put a stop to the effusion of blood, and to take no part with either side, the admirals published a protocol, in which they attempt to conceal their premeditated violence under the flimsy veil of humanity. Perhaps their desire to further the views of their masters was not entirely unconnected with some prospective advantages that might accrue personally to themselves. This naval protocol states, that three plans presented themselves. 1. To blockade the Turkish fleet, which would be troublesome and expensive. 2. To go into the harbour, and by remaining there peaceably, to keep the Turks quiet. 3. To go in "in order to renew to the Turkish commander propositions which, entering into the spirit of the treaty, were evidently to the advantage of the Porte itself!" This third course was adopted on the 18th October. On the very next day the French admiral sent in a summons, *de par le roi*, to all the French officers in the Turkish fleet to quit the service instantly, or they would be treated as rebels, and with this they were compelled to comply. This was the first pacific step; but on the following day measures of a still more peaceable character were adopted. While the Turkish commander-in-chief was twenty miles from his fleet, and half the crews were on shore washing themselves and their clothes, the combined squadron, composed of a pitiful force of only ten ships of the line and a due proportion of frigates, &c., amounting in all to twenty-eight sail, peaceably entered the harbour; and in order, no doubt, to pay a friendly compliment to the Turks, had their ports up, their guns run out, and their men at quarters! There happened to be near the entrance of the harbour a few Turkish fireships, and fearful perhaps lest they might explode and injure the Turks, the allies humanely ordered their cables to be cut. This was very unreasonably objected to by the Turks, who

could hardly suppose that this was one of "the propositions evidently to the advantage of the Porte itself." They resisted, fired upon the boats, and then the farce so impudently carried on ceased, the mask was thrown off, and the bloody tragedy began. In the course of four hours, all but fifteen vessels were destroyed, and 5000 Turks perished. A few months after this, Russia, who had evidently duped both France and England, threw off all disguise, and declared war against Turkey on her own account. To the impartial pages of history we consign this atrocious transaction, which, for its bad faith, duplicity, effrontery, and outrageous contempt for the laws of nations and of humanity, is, we believe, without a parallel.\*

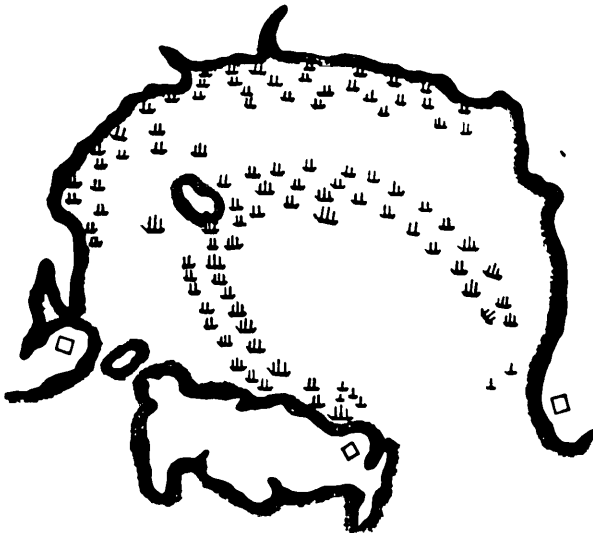
In speaking of this transaction, my Turkish friend related the following anecdote.

Shortly after the slaughter of Navarino, the officer charged with despatches from the Turkish admiral waited upon the seraiskier, and exhibited a plan of the battle. The old seraiskier looked at it for a few moments, and then threw it aside with disdain, exclaiming, "That is no plan of the battle!"—"No plan!" replied the officer; "I can assure your highness that it is exact in all its details."—"Inshallah!" exclaimed the seraiskier; "I can show you a better one, although I have not been there myself; do you see this," taking up at the same time a scrip of paper containing a few slight scratches with a pen. The officer looked at it more attentively, and discovered a Turk smoking placidly on his divan, and a servant, who had apparently just entered, announced to his master that three foreign-looking gentlemen were at the door and wished to see him. The master was represented as saying to the servant, "Ask

\* It is amusing to contrast the conduct of the chief naval commander, Codrington, on this occasion, with his declaration made in the English Parliament, while these pages were passing through the press. "I had agreed that the Egyptians should remain in possession of the forts of the Morea when their army evacuated that country, knowing that it would be safer for us to leave them in the hands of the Turks than in those of the Greeks!"

them to come in and get the pipes and coffee ready to do them honour."—"I do not in all this, may it please your highness, see any plan of a battle," was the observation of the perplexed officer. "That is only the key," replied the seraiskier; "turn over the paper, and you will see the battle." The officer looked on the other side and beheld the same Turk lying bleeding on his divan, with a Russian, Frenchman, and Englishman standing over him, each armed with a dagger. "Allah Kayrim! but your highness is right," exclaimed the officer; "these sketches give a more correct idea of Christian faith and honour than all our minute and laboured plans of the battle."

I endeavoured to procure a copy of these sketches, but without success; I was, however, fortunate enough to obtain afterward, at Constantinople, a plan of Navarino, drawn up, as I was informed, by a Turkish naval officer. A reduced sketch is subjoined, from which it would appear that the Turko-Egyptian fleet consisted of three sail of the line and about thirty frigates, sloops, brigs, and fireships.



Battle of Navarino.  
M M M



Had an attack been anticipated, it is not likely that the Turks would have retained the position which is assigned to them in this sketch. The allies had a force of ten ships of the line, and about twenty other vessels of various sizes; their killed and wounded amounted to 654. The Turkish loss was never exactly known, but is supposed to have been about 5000.

Notwithstanding these facts, a clergyman\* has the singular simplicity to make the following declaration: "I confess that I had pleasurable emotions on first beholding the theatre of an event apparently so necessary to the cause of humanity and of Greece as the battle of Navarino." One is reminded of the worthy Fray Antonio Agapida, who exclaims, "It was a pleasing and refreshing sight to witness the rich land of the infidel made desolate, and to see his children made captive."

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## CHAPTER XLVII.

Chalcedon or Kadikeui—The Seat of the Fourth General Council—St. Chrysostom—St. Euphemia and its Curiosities—A coloured Virgin—Fanar Batchee—Earthquakes—Dislocation of Strata—Gevisa, the Burial-place of Hannibal—Revolt of Viceroy of Egypt—Murder of Selim Pacha—Environs of Constantinople—State of Cultivation—Tatavola—Simple style of Living of Turkish Dignitaries—Turkish Beggars—Attention to their Wants.

THE town of Kadikeui formerly built on the site of a city celebrated under the name of Chalcedon, and lying a few miles from Constantinople on the Asiatic shore, has been my residence for a few days past. In the family of a French gentleman, Mr. R., this period has been agreeably spent, and amid the refinements of Europe, and the pleasures of polished intercourse, the hours have glided quickly away.

\* Anderson's Observations on the Peloponnesus and Greek Islands.

Chalcedon is chiefly remarkable as the place where, more than thirteen centuries ago, 630 bishops met, in order to regulate the articles of religious belief. It is known in the history of the church under the name of the fourth general council of Chalcedon; and the decisions of that council are felt to the present day over all the Christian world. They were assembled to condemn the heresy of Eutyches, who was accused of confounding the persons of the Godhead. The Christian church was governed at that time by the Bishop of Rome and the Bishop of Constantinople, and a question of rank arose between them. By this council the *πρωτεια*, or primacy, was awarded to the Bishop of Rome, giving him rank and precedence over his Byzantine brother; and this was the origin of the papal power, and of the separation between the eastern and western churches.\* In this place, too, the Archbishop of Constantinople, the zealous and learned St. Chrysostom, or golden mouth (the author of so many sermons that 1000 have reached us), was solemnly deposed and banished by a council composed of forty-five bishops. Their triumph was, however, of short duration. Within two days the mob of the city pursued him, brought him back, and restored him to his exalted station.

We were shown the little church of St. Euphemia, as the identical place of meeting of the 630 bishops who formed the fourth general council. It is very small, and unless the bishops sat in each other's laps, it is difficult to imagine how they could have been accommodated. Two young dirty and ignorant Greek priests acted as cicerones, and pointed out the curiosities of the church. These, as near as I can recollect, were,—1. The 108 wooden stalls, or arm-chairs, occupied by the 630 bishops above alluded to. 2. The real iron spit upon which St. Euphemia was basted, a story equally difficult to believe or to disprove. 3. The marvellous sweating or weeping pillar, which only perspires every three months. It is a porous limestone, and of course is

\* Grier's Epitome of the General Councils of the Church.

susceptible of being made the instrument of a pious fraud. Our guides assured us that when the Turks pillaged Chalcedon, to ornament Constantinople, they took away every pillar of this church except the weeping column, which resisted all their efforts to remove it from its place. That it might have been taken away piecemeal was satisfactorily proved by one of our party, who, watching his opportunity, knocked off a considerable fragment. The last curiosity was a portrait of the Virgin and Child, painted by St. Luke. The Virgin is as black as an African, and I understand that this is the complexion frequently given to her in the Asiatic churches, in order to conciliate what is so happily termed in our country "the coloured interest."

We made an excursion to the low point below the village called Fanar Batchee, anciently known as Heræum, from a temple which formerly stood here dedicated to Juno. Here the Greek emperors, and particularly Justinian, squandered the resources of the empire in the construction of palaces, pleasure-grounds, and baths, of which now scarcely a fragment remains. On our way to the point, the road and fields were strewn with building stones, bricks, &c.; and this is considered by some as the real site of ancient Chalcedon. We stopped for a few moments to examine a large excavation, 250 feet long, 100 broad, and 20 feet deep. The sides are built up with thick walls, composed of alternate courses of stone and brick. We inquired of a Greek peasant for what purposes he supposed that it had been constructed. He replied, to keep hogs in; and, upon cross-examination, gave what might be considered satisfactory evidence in a court of justice—namely, that the memory of the oldest inhabitant ran not to the contrary. This remarkable work was, however, executed under the Emperor Heraclius, for a cistern or reservoir, 1220 years ago.

A lighthouse in ruins, of the age of the Genoese, still upholds its head among the lofty cypresses which adorn this beautiful promontory. A small bay above is doubtless the ancient harbour known as the port of Eutropius, and

along its banks, and far in the water, one may trace the foundation-walls of former palaces and buildings. History records this spot as having been formerly convulsed by earthquakes, the evidences of which are plentiful around us. The rock of this place is an argillaceous schist, assuming a north and south direction, of various degrees of hardness, and enveloping occasionally rounded pebbles. In one place near the point, the strata dip to the west under an angle of 40 degrees, a short distance farther on they dip to the east, and at the point of junction, numerous distortions occur. As the strata are composed of laminæ, or sheets, of different degrees of hardness, some are washed out by the action of the waves, and the remainder present evidences of having been violently disturbed. In other places our attention was called to an appearance which was no doubt attributable to the same cause. The walls of a building had been prostrated, and were almost completely covered by the rock of the country, which, instead of being nearly vertical, as it generally is, was here horizontal.

From the green promontory of Fanar Batchee the eye commands a lovely view. To the north, the capital and the mouth of the Bosphorus; before us, the Sea of Marmora; on the south, the Prince's Islands and the Mountains of Bithynia; and looking eastward down the Bay of Ismid, the eye rests upon Gevisa, the ancient Libyssa, celebrated as the closing scene of the eventful life of Hannibal.

On this promontory, which was covered with parties of Turkish women from Constantinople, making *kafe*, we noticed the ruins of a bath, and of a larger building, which was probably a chapel. The walls are covered, in true cockney style, with the names of idle visitors; among which the officers of the English frigates *Salsette* and *Blonde* are most conspicuous.

Upon our return to town we found the intelligence respecting the insubordination of the Pacha of Egypt fully confirmed. Two regiments of the disciplined infantry are on their way to Acre, and their strength amounts to 7000

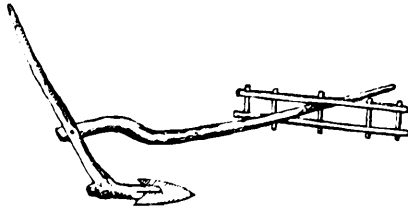
men. The government journal has an article on the subject of the disturbances in the south, from which it is easy to perceive that much mischief is brewing. Mehemet Ali of Egypt has sent a fleet and army against Abdoullah Pacha of Acre. The journal states that a misunderstanding has arisen between the two pachas, that both are wrong, and unless the troops are withdrawn, the immutable decree of the holy law will be pronounced against them. That the Pacha of Egypt is highly culpable there can be no doubt, as he has actually commenced offensive operations; but why the other pacha should be included in this decree it is difficult to imagine. Some clew to the conduct of the Turkish government may be found in the suggestion that it is afraid of the power of the Egyptian Pacha, and is endeavouring to steer such a course as will prevent an open rupture. This timid, vacillating policy will not answer; and the Porte will find, when too late, that the Pacha of Egypt means to add Syria to his empire, and will then throw off even the semblance of submission to the sultan. It is whispered here that one of the griefs of the Viceroy of Egypt is, that the sultan retains in his council the old Seraiskier Usref, who is his most bitter enemy, and who has for years past endeavoured to get the viceroy into his power.

The troubles at Damascus continue. Selim Pacha, who was formally deposed by the Porte a few weeks since, has been cut to pieces by the mob of that city. Selim was grand vizier when the Catholic Armenians were exiled from the metropolis, and his influence was actively employed against them. His sudden and violent death is viewed by the Armenians here with much satisfaction, as an act of retributive justice.

The immediate environs of Constantinople are far from being under even a tolerable state of cultivation. The existence of the Janizaries, of course, prevented the soil in the vicinity of the city from being cultivated, as no man could be

sure of his crop ; but at present the case is altered, and more attention is paid to this subject. The soil is excellent, and without the least attention to manuring, and to those minutiae of husbandry which distinguish the careless from the successful cultivator, yields abundant crops.

Agriculture is, however, in a very languishing condition throughout Turkey ; and those lands which are held in vakoof, or, in other words, mortgaged to the church, are the most highly cultivated. The general system of cultivation is exceedingly slovenly, as may be shown by the ordinary plough in use, which is of the rudest kind.



The vineyards alone appear to be highly cultivated. Every vine is carefully weeded and hoed into hills, and these operations are repeated until the grape is well filled. Lands are frequently worked on shares ; that is to say, the landlord furnishes the ground and the seed, and receives one-half of the produce. With grafting and forcing, and all other operations connected with horticulture, the Turks appear to be well acquainted ; although in the most delightful branch of this art, we mean landscape gardening, they have made scarcely more progress than ourselves. Their love of inaction, when not stimulated by the fiercer passions of our nature, leads them to pass entire hours in one spot ; and hence winding alleys, and gravel-walks, and terraces, inviting to a promenade, not being required, are scarcely ever seen in Turkey ; and yet there are scarcely any people to whom they yield in their passionate attachment to flowers. These are employed as tokens of friend-

ship and of love, as a medium of complimentary intercourse between patron and dependant, and form the last sad token of grief over the grave of a departed friend. The Padir shah distributes both flowers and fruits to his grantees and to foreign ministers, with such an unsparing hand that two officers of the seraglio are specially charged, one with the superintendence of fruits and the other of flowers. Happy is the mortal for, at least, a short period, to whom his majesty has deigned to order a few pots of flowers. The official bakshish is paid to the royal messenger with the greatest demonstration of pleasure, and the princely gift is arranged in such a manner that every one who enters may behold and envy the happy man. Strange as it may seem, even the mongrel breed of Periots, the representatives of all the majesty of Europe, and of more than all its imbecility, display the most childish desire to obtain these evidences of imperial consideration. An order, a title, or a riband, ridiculous as they appear to those who have learned to do without them, are scarcely more coveted than a few pots of flowers. I recollect walking upon the quay at Buyukdery one day, when a sudden and general exclamation of wonder among the numerous groupes assembled there attracted my attention. All eyes were riveted upon a royal barge which approached the spot, and the interest excited was scarcely less than if the commander of the faithful himself had appeared. The boat was conveying presents of flowers to some of the rival nobility. Windows were thrown open, houses were emptied of their inhabitants, and conjecture in every tongue of Europe and Asia exhausted itself, as to who would be the highly honoured recipient of royal favour. I do not recollect who it finally proved to be, but there is no doubt that it caused a sleepless night to all his brother diplomatists, and furnished for weeks a fruitful topic of discussion in the circles of Buyukdery. The favourite flowers among the Turks are the tulip, the rose, and the oleander. This latter

grows very luxuriantly here, and thrives in the open air during the whole year.

In a little excursion around the suburbs, which I made a few days since, in company with a gentleman who has been absent a year from Turkey, he expressed his surprise at the increased quantity of ground which had been put under cultivation during his absence. An attempt was made about two years since to introduce all the modern improvements of husbandry into Turkey: it was done at the expense of government, and failed, for the reasons which have been already stated. An English family was imported, and placed on a farm near the city. Disputes soon arose about their accommodations, their expenses, &c., and both parties separated in mutual disgust.

We returned by way of Tatavola, or St. Dametri, a village entirely inhabited by Greeks, and sustaining a very doubtful character on the score of morality. Descending a flight of steps, down a steep hill, we entered the low and dirty suburb of Cassim Pacha, in the rear of the arsenal. In several parts of this suburb the centre of the street is a deep open ditch, crossed by high bridges. These bridges are purposely constructed with a great elevation; for in dry weather the ditches are used as a road, and persons on horseback may then pass under the bridges with ease.

Happening to call upon one of the high functionaries of the government, we were shown *sans ceremonie* into his office, where he was eating his midday meal in company with several officers. They were partaking of a pilaf of fish and beans, and helped themselves out of the same dish with large wooden spoons. While we were there, a blind beggar was shown into the room; money was immediately handed to him, which he seemed to receive rather as his due than as alms, and immediately withdrew. There seems, indeed, to be a sort of republican equality between the richest and poorest Turk, an equality founded upon, and arising from, their religious creed, and kept up by their



political system, which, unlike that of even the most liberal governments, disfranchises no one, and renders all alike eligible to the highest offices.

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## CHAPTER XLVIII.

Leave Constantinople—Passports—Hexamila—Parallel Roads—English Schooners—Dardanelles—Camels of the Pacha—Interior of the Castle—Large Guns—Hospital—Introduction to the Pacha.

AFTER a residence of several months in any place one naturally leaves it with regret, and in the present instance this regret is increased by the small probability that I shall ever see again those kind friends who have so materially contributed to render my residence agreeable.

Among the refinements of civilization, no American would ever dream that passports were included, and yet, strange to say, this onerous, useless, and absurd practice has been imported into Turkey; and recent European travellers have hailed it as one of the greatest improvements which have been introduced into the country. The system, however, does not seem to be understood; for although it is necessary to obtain a passport upon leaving the capital, yet the traveller may roam through the whole empire without being asked to produce it. Indeed, it may be doubted whether, in the provinces, they ever heard that such passports were required. During my whole residence I have travelled about the country alone, and never heard of their existence, but now that I am about to leave it, Captain John, a Levantine Greek, and of course a knave, who acts as interpreter and purveyor for foreign ships, tells me that a passport is necessary. As it costs about six cents, I thought it would be worth that amount to go through the

ceremony, in order to have a peep at the officials of a Turkish police office. It is a rich treat at any time to see the gravity with which a Turkish officer goes through his duty. The chief asked me what ship I intended to sail in, and his passport, as translated to me, conveyed the very correct and precise information, that an English gentleman, a particular friend of Captain John, was about to sail in an American ship, to London, and perhaps to the New World.

Having engaged a passage in an American merchant vessel, bound to Smyrna, we took leave of our friends, and getting on board, were soon carried by the current past Seraglio Point. At 4 o'clock in the afternoon the wind blew from the right quarter; and by sunset, the pointed minarets and proudly swelling domes gave us the last glimpse of fair Stamboul. This wind was but of short duration; for a calm of two days' continuance only permitted us to reach *Hexamila*, on the Hellespont, where the Thracian peninsula is but six miles across. We could distinctly perceive across the peninsula, the mountains on the opposite side of the Gulf of Saros. The little town of Hexamila has retained the name which indicates its position, while prouder and more highly favoured cities have either experienced a change of appellation, or exist only on the pages of history.

If the Turks were not the least enterprising people in Europe (with the exception perhaps of the Spaniards), the extreme narrowness of the Thracian peninsula would long since have suggested a canal or railroad from the Gulf of Saros to the Hellespont. This would save the tedious and inevitable delays to which vessels are exposed when attempting to pass the Dardanelles. Such a step would enable goods to be transported with great ease and expedition, from Adrianople by the Maritza, or ancient Hebrus, from Kishan, Cavelle, and Salonica; but here time is not money, and whether a passage from these places to Constantinople is made in one or three months seems scarcely to be worth taking into account.

Not far from this town is one of the largest tumuli I have ever seen, and if it be indeed, as some have guessed, the tomb of a hero, and his greatness is measured by the size of his tomb, the people buried on the plains of Troy, the Ajaxes and Achilles and Hectors, must have been but small-fry in comparison with this Thracian demigod or hero.

In the neighbourhood of Gallipoli the hills are of moderate elevation, and the most inattentive observer can hardly fail to notice a series of natural terraces, similar to those described as the parallel roads of Glentilt in Scotland; these terraces, if we recollect aright, are sometimes six in number, and nearly equidistant from each other. Above Sestos, they are slightly inclined; but below, are parallel with the level of the Dardanelles. Their formation is doubtless to be attributed to the successive sudden lowering of the level of the channel by some convulsion of nature, and the volcanic appearance of the hills inland strengthens this opinion. The same agency is sufficient to explain why some parts of these natural terraces have been deranged from their original position.

The winds are extremely irregular and baffling in the Dardanelles, as we shortly had an opportunity of witnessing. We were slowly fanning along with all our studding-sails set, while a mile below vessels were advancing towards us before the wind; their breeze carried the day, and we were compelled to drop anchor abreast of Lampsaki. In the evening the solitary minaret of Lampsaki was gayly illuminated in honour of some religious festival which is to be celebrated to-morrow. The Turkish Sabbath, as I have before remarked, like that of the Jews, and some sects of Christians, commences with the setting sun of the preceding day. Gallipoli also showed her illuminated minarets, as well as the little village of Cardaki, or Chardak, opposite, and the sparkling effect over the glassy surface of the Hellespont, combined with the perfect stillness of the evening, the profound silence on shore, uninterrupted except

by the unearthly voice of the muzzeim, as he called the faithful to their devotions, gave rise to feelings which accorded with the solemnities of the scene.

Our musings were interrupted by a hoarse salute in our own tongue, from a small boat which had approached us unobserved. It proved to be from the captain of a small English schooner, from London, at anchor a short distance below us. This bluff son of Neptune afforded us much amusement by his inexhaustible stores of sea jokes, and by the praises which he seemed to divide nearly equally between the glass of right Monongahela before him, and his own darling schooner, the Vestal. "She was built," said he, "after one of your Yankee clippers, but can beat them all; she is a sweet" (giving her an epithet which by no means accorded with her name), "and can sail two feet to one with any ship in the royal navy." These schooners have been introduced into the English merchant service within a few years, and are principally used where despatch is required. There are now about thirty of them; they vary from 100 to 150 tons, and draw 12 or 13 feet water; they are chiefly employed in the fruit trade between Smyrna and London, where it is very important to have quick passages. They are built professedly on the American schooner model, but are more burthensome in proportion to their dimensions. Their internal distribution, particularly of the cabin, is, I think, an improvement upon that of our vessels; but their model or rig presents nothing worthy of imitation.

A light breeze carried us the next morning just below Abydos, or Nagara Point, where we came to anchor, and as it was likely that the calm would last all day, we determined to go on shore. We landed just below the fortress at Abydos, or Nagara Point. The soil appears here to be very productive, and is under good cultivation. A short and pleasant walk led us into the low and miserable-looking town of Chanak Kalessi, or Pottery Landing, better known as the Asiatic Dardanelles.

Although a place of great manufacturing activity, it has a forlorn and wretched appearance; and from the sallow and wasted appearance of the inhabitants, it was easy to discover that they were subject to intermittent and other fevers.

The chief article of manufacture is pottery, which has a great reputation over all Turkey; it is cheap and strong, gaudily gilded and painted, but scarcely in accordance with our ideas of taste or beauty.

From the number of yellow slippers sported in the streets by Jews and other subjects, we were led to suppose that consuls must be here in abundance; and this proved to be the fact. Their pay is poor enough; but their high consular privileges enable them to earn a miserable pittance, by defrauding the customs, for themselves and others. Some of them, however, are respectable foreigners, who contrive to live by engaging in the collection of valonia, great quantities of which are gathered on the hills adjacent to the Dardanelles.

To the politeness of one of the attachés of the English consulate (for it must be stated that every petty consul apes the state of his superior at the capital), I was indebted for an opportunity of seeing all the curiosities of the town; these may be briefly enumerated. The great lion is the stable of his highness the Pacha of the Dardanelles. It contained between twenty and thirty of the largest camels I have ever seen. Upon inquiring for what purpose the pacha kept so large an establishment, I was informed that they were used in transporting tar and turpentine from a great distance in the interior; and it was added, that they were a great source of private revenue to the pacha. From this we passed through the town, stopping for a few moments to examine the tombs of two former pachas. Their history was a common one in this part of the world; they had been guilty of some crime or error, and had expiated the offence by poison.

In the suburbs of the town, which are very low and unhealthy, we noticed several sooterays, which had been partially demolished by Duckworth during his memorable passage of the Dardanelles. A little stream, once occupying, under the name of the River Rhodius, a considerable place in ancient geography, empties itself just below the town. It frequently rises to such a height as to overflow the suburbs, and even the town itself. A solid wall of masonry has been constructed to prevent the recurrence of a similar accident, and near it a delightful promenade, shaded by plane-trees, on the margin of the stream; a summer-house was filled with Turks, enjoying their kafe, at an early hour.

Not far from this I noticed four large stones, surmounted by a still larger one, which stood about four feet from the ground; it was explained to me that this slab served as a resting-place for coffins, on their passage from the house to the cemetery.

In various parts of the town large blocks of quartz, at the corners of streets, attracted our attention; they were hollowed out, and used for pounding corn and other grain. By this simple implement the whole neighbourhood were enabled to prepare their own food. Its admirable adaptation to the wants of a community points out more distinctly than any inscription its claims to great antiquity.

We amused ourselves while stopping for a few minutes at the house of our consul, in laughing at the absurd farce playing off upon our ship's passport. This is a huge document, with the sultan's signature, or toorah, and was introduced into a wooden box and smoked, then steeped in vinegar and smoked again, before it was deemed sufficiently pure to enter the filthy hand of our consul, upon whom it would have been far better to have performed this cleansing operation. The Italian physician who had acted as interpreter on our passage up met me in the street, and offered to show me the interior of the castle. As few strangers are ever allowed this privilege, I gladly

availed myself of his offer, although war and all its accompaniments are little to my taste. My guide informs me that 800 men are constantly stationed here; but as I visited every part of the castle, and saw all the troops, I should think that half that number was a large estimate. The celebrated guns, which are said to be the largest in the world, chiefly attracted my attention. They were lying on the ground, under stone arches, with several pieces of timber behind them, to break the force of the recoil. They are of brass, or rather composition, and most elaborately sculptured throughout. The largest, which I measured, was fifteen feet long and twenty-six inches caliber; which, although very large, is much smaller than the marvellous accounts published of their size would lead one to imagine. One of these stories very gravely purports that a man rode into the largest, on horseback, to avoid a shower of rain; a carriage and four followed him, but it alarmed the horse so much, that at one desperate leap he effected his escape through the touch-hole. None of these guns are as large as some of those which I saw at Constantinople. At Tophauna, for example, is one eighteen feet long, and at the arsenal I measured one of thirty inches caliber, from Negropont, and which had been divided into several pieces, for convenience of transportation. Several of the large guns at the Dardanelles had been injured in discharging them; and, indeed, if the quantity of powder which is used (180 pounds) be correctly stated, it is a wonder they do not burst at every discharge. The stone balls employed weigh 412 pounds. The effect from such a gun must be tremendous; but, unfortunately, they are entirely unmanageable, and cannot be fired unless the vessel should come within its range; they have, however, been sometimes known to hit, as in the case of Admiral Duckworth, when a shot stove in the whole bow of one of his vessels, and rendered her unfit for service. Many of these guns, and several parts of the batteries, still bear evidence of Admiral Duckworth's

successful, but useless daring, when he passed all these apparently formidable defences.

On some parts of the works many peasants were employed in placing guns in their carriages and repairing the batteries, while the soldiers were idly gazing upon their operations. I could not learn whether this labour was compulsory, or paid for, but presume the former, or else the soldiers might have been profitably employed. There are said to be 482 guns mounted on the Asiatic, and 332 on the European shore of the Dardanelles ; all are of brass, but I hazard little in saying that many of them are useless.

The military hospital attached to the castle contained but two patients : they were suffering under intermittent fever, and the Turkish physician treated them judiciously with quinine.

Just outside of the castle we passed near the palace of the pacha ; he was seated at one of the windows, and beckoning to the doctor, begged him to introduce the stranger. We accordingly made our way through his guards, and found him in his room of state, surrounded by his aids, secretaries, and other functionaries. He received me with much civility, and desired me to be seated on the divan near him. He was a noble-looking man, and his countenance denoted much intelligence. Originally a rice merchant, he attained his present elevation by one of those chances which are too common in this country to excite surprise or remark. That extremes meet, is strongly verified in this absolute government, for the lowest Turk, if possessed of capacity, may aspire to the highest rank in the empire. You may ask the poorest fisherman or porter, if he ever expects to be a pacha, and he replies, Inshallah (please God), as if the idea was neither strange nor wonderful. The pachalic or region under the control of my new acquaintance is very extensive, and is said to be lucrative. It comprises all the fortifications on both sides of the Dardanelles, and extends from Brusa, near Mount Olympus, to



Smyrna. His questions to me were principally concerning my visit to Constantinople, how I liked the place and the people, had I seen the Padir shah, and then the conversation turned upon America. Was it as large as Turkey ; what language was spoken there ; what was our religion, the size of our fleets and armies, and various other questions which betokened a rational curiosity.

My medical friend, it appears, was intriguing for the place of American consul, which, although of little value, seemed as much desired as the empty title of alderman at home. The pacha accordingly fell in with the views of his protégé, and begged me to write to our minister, the elchi bey, and inform him that the poor Jew who now held the office could no longer be recognised. As I happened to know that this was an affair in which the pacha, with all his powers of life and death, could not interfere, I took the liberty of stating respectfully to his highness, that I was surprised to learn that a Jew could not hold an office in Turkey ; that in our own country, which was Christian, we made no distinction in these matters, and that even a Turk, with us, was capable of holding an office, and was almost eligible to be made our Padir shah, or president. I however promised to write to our elchi bey on the subject, and hinted, as if incidentally, that I would recommend him to confer with the drogoman of the Porte. I thought the pacha flinched a little at this suggestion, and the doctor afterward seemed rather desirous that I should not trouble the ambassador, as the pacha would arrange it in his own way.

## CHAPTER XLIX.

Departure from the Dardanelles—Tenedos—Cape Baba—Mytilene—Turkish tête-à-tête—Lesbian Wine—Old Phoecea—Escape Shipwreck—Arrival at Smyrna.

THE calms, alternating with contrary winds, promised to detain us so long at the Dardanelles, that Mr. G. and myself determined to charter an open boat and coast along the shores to Smyrna. The season, it is true, was far advanced, the coast was unknown, and our boatmen might prove to be inexpert sailors, but the novelty of the attempt blinded us to all the inconveniences and possible dangers of the voyage.

We accordingly engaged a small craft, about thirty feet in length, known under the local name of Beeardeh, and commanded by a grave, gray-bearded Turk, who rejoiced in the name of Ali. Six stout followers of the prophet formed the crew, and they were to row us, if necessary, 250 or 300 miles for the enormous sum of \$20. It was a queer-rigged craft, and albeit no seaman, I felt some misgivings when I observed that there were no less than five different ways of taking in the mainsail. I could not but imagine that in the event of a sudden squall, each of the crew might have his own way of taking in the sail, in which case we should have the agreeable alternative of capsizing, or losing our sail altogether. We were, however, fairly engaged for the voyage, and accordingly put our baggage on board, expecting to sail immediately. The Turkish *ahneedeh* (immediately), however, means no definite period of time, and we thought ourselves lucky, after waiting six hours, to get off by four o'clock in the afternoon.

It was a dead calm, but the current and the united efforts of our rowers carried us rapidly down the Hellespont. At dusk we were between the lower castles, and the shades of night soon closed upon the scene. We rigged up an old sail, and lighting our lamp, contrived to pass the time in discussing some excellent corned beef and the question of who wrote the Iliad. My companion argued that one man alone could not have written the Iliad, to say nothing of the Odyssey, for the plain reason that there were then no writing materials, and 30,000 lines would have been rather a stretch for the memory; that general consent of the learned proved too much, for there were a great number of other poems attributed to Homer, which contained direct contradictions to the Iliad. I hinted that I was rather disposed to adopt the opinion of the celebrated English critic Barnes, that King Solomon wrote the Iliad; but when called upon for my reasons could only allege his well-known acquaintance with things in general, and the leisure which he undoubtedly had for such a large work. We certainly did not handle the subject with the gravity which it required, and if Coleridge had listened to our discourse he would have surely charged us with blasphemy.\* We were engaged in weighing the probabilities of its being the joint-stock affair of the Homeridæ or Rhapsodists, like the poems of Ossian, and afterward arranged by Pisistratus, the prototype of the Scotch Macpherson, when either from

\* Listen to the nonsense which this distinguished poet suffers himself to publish to the youth of England. "We should approach it (Iliad) with something like the reverence which we yield to the Hebrew Genesis. We believe that the Iliad, like the Bible, is collateral with all time, is now, and will be for ever."—*Introd. to Study of Classic Poets.*

How critics will differ. Baltius himself, no mean judge, declares that the *Battle of the Frogs and Mice* is a more noble and perfect poem than the Iliad or Odyssey. "*Batrachomyomachia mihi videtur nobilior proprior que perfectioni quam Odyssea et Ilias, imo utramque superat judicio ac ingenio et prestantia texturæ cum sit poema ludicrum excellens!*"—

We can only add, *Uter horum insanior?*

fatigue or the drowsy nature of the subject, sleep overtook us in the midst of the discussion.

The cessation of the oarsmen and the splash of the anchor in the water, aroused us from our slumbers. We found ourselves at midnight snugly within the little harbour of Tenedos, surrounded by numerous fishing-boats, and under the white walls of the castle, having accomplished the distance of thirty miles in eight hours. Long before daylight we were all stirring in our little bark, and we sallied forth on a tour of discovery through the town. Although it was yet dark, we could discover by the lights moving about in every house, that the Turks were already stirring; indeed I know of no nation who are habitually such early risers. After groping our way through narrow lanes, and stumbling over sleeping dogs at almost every step, we entered the chief square of the place. Directing our steps towards a coffee-house, we entered in order to enjoy a few cups of the exhilarating beverage. We found it filled with Turkish fishermen and boatmen, many of whom had apparently passed the night there asleep on the floor, for they had not yet stirred from their slumbers. I noticed that as they awoke they stepped outside to a neighbouring fountain, washed themselves, returned to the coffee-house, and went through their silent prayers before they ventured to break their fast. After partaking of coffee and a pipe we returned to our boat, set sail, and finished our breakfast in a more substantial manner.

A pleasant breeze wafted us along the shores of the Troad, once the resort of petty bucaniers, but now lined with peaceful merchant-vessels waiting for cargoes of valonia. At eleven we passed a pretty village lying some distance inland, which Captain Ali designated as Chesidermeh. Our crew commenced singing monotonous love songs, far less endurable than the noisy chants which I have heard on the St. Lawrence.

At two we passed Cape Baba, a well known land-mark

in these seas. It is composed of precipitous volcanic rocks resting on strata dipping to the east. The village, which boasts of two minarets, is built of stone, and lies on the declivity of a hill. The fort is very large, mounting apparently sixty guns; and, being perfectly white, it presents a pretty appearance when viewed from the water. At their noonday meal we had an opportunity of witnessing the general temperance of our Turkish crew. A few pieces of charcoal were lighted on the sand in the bottom of the boat; a handful of coffee was roasted in a ladle, put into a small handmill, ground, and about a pint of boiling water poured upon it. This, with a very small piece of coarse bread, formed a meal for six stout hard-working men. It certainly formed a strong contrast with a meal which was despatched at the same time by their Christian passengers. We need hardly descend to particulars, but it may be hinted that divers turkeys, hams, and eggs, with a stock of excellent wine, disappeared in a marvellous manner during our periphus of the Grecian isles.

With a fresh and favourable breeze we entered the channel between the main and the island of Mytilene. On a low eminence, overshadowed by the lofty peaks of the island of Mytilene, we noticed a fortified castle, with a little village appended to it called Moluvah. We now stood close in to the island, and as we glided along its shores with a bright moon over our head, the lights of the fishermen appearing at intervals along the beach, and the frowning mountains of the island in the back-ground, we gave ourselves up to the inspiration of the place and scene. Our musings were interrupted by old Ali, who summoned us to a council of war. He had been advised at Tenedos, he said, to keep a bright look-out at a certain cape of Mytilene which we were now approaching, as many Greek pirates were said to be in that neighbourhood. We accordingly produced our fowling-pieces, swords, and pistols, and cleared ship for action. It was a debated point in our council

whether we should immediately commence firing away in the modern Greek and Portuguese fashion, in order to scare the enemy before he appeared; or whether we should wait quietly for his approach, and let him know when he got alongside that he had caught a tartar. Our discreet commander advised the latter course to be adopted, and we accordingly waited with arms in hand, and in the language of modern bulletins, "panting for the combat."

No enemy, however, appeared to test our valour, and we certainly were under obligations for their civility and forbearance, which even now I deem it proper to put on record. We arrived at Mytilene safely at four o'clock in the morning.

Our early arrival, while it was still dark, of course will spare the reader a highly finished picture of the beauties of the town and harbour. We rowed into the port between two square black looking towers, which a wavering flickering light on the summits seemed to indicate were intended for light-houses. As we touched the wharf an officer made his appearance, who inquired, where we were from, whither bound, and if we had any Turkish passengers. As soon as he was satisfied with our replies, apparently not considering foreigners as worthy of any notice by his superiors, he turned upon his heel, and left us at perfect liberty to carry the town by storm if we pleased, or to undertake the less arduous task of making an entrance into a coffee-house. We preferred the latter, and took possession of one already filled with smoke, and some scores of Turks sleeping in every possible variety of attitude.

The lively coffee-house keeper, a Greek, was, however, wide awake, and we were quickly served with his refreshing beverage; and tucking our heels under us, we were speedily contributing to the clouds of smoke which almost obscured the ceiling of the room. Our captain (Ali) and his first lieutenant (Buyuk Sadi, or, as we translated it, Big Ben), here met some old acquaintances, and we were

not a little diverted by the complete stoicism which the interview between long-severed friends exhibited. The mutual salutations of *Saba hy allah*, *Kay pheneez amy*, &c. were soon exchanged, and profound silence ensued, interrupted only by the stentorous sipping of coffee and the gurgling bubble of the water in the crystal narghilay. After a half-hour's pause, Osman said, inquiringly, "You are from the town of Pottery, Ali?" A short grunt was all that Ali deigned to utter; but it was, of course, understood by the querist. A pause of longer duration ensued, when Ali began,—“Coffee is very dear; what is the reason the Giaours don't bring us more?” “Inshallah” (please God), “we shall have more in good time,” responded his friend; and here I thought the conversation was fully at an end; but after some time Ali inquired,—“Is the loaf as large and as white as ever in your island?” “Mushallah” (God is great), replied Osman, “we don't complain.” This is positively the entire substance, word for word, of an interview which lasted for nearly two hours. Two Frenchmen would have out-talked, two Englishmen would have out-bragged, or two Yankees outwitted each other in less than half that time.

With the first glimpse of dawn we left the coffee-house to take a hasty glance of Mytilene, once the scene of some of the labours of the first and greatest apostle of Christianity. The streets partake of the usual narrow character found in all the cities of the Levant. They were, however, perfectly clean; and the houses, being built of stone, appeared to us, who had been accustomed to the wooden structures of Constantinople, to be of a superior order. Our rambles were directed towards a hill which overhung the town, and which is crowned with a battery, apparently of great extent. From this eminence we could ascertain that the town of Mytilene is built on a peninsula, and has in fact two harbours,—one on the north, which is comparatively deserted, and one on the south, which contains nearly all the

shipping. It was by this latter that we entered. The castle, near which we stood, was one of the innumerable works which those enterprising fellows, in days of yore, the Genoese, contrived to plant in so many places in the Mediterranean. In the harbour we noticed a pretty little ten-gun brig, just launched, and a fifty-four-gun frigate, nearly completed, on the stocks. The arsenal, or navy-yard, appeared to be very extensive.

The town of Mytilene contains about a thousand houses; and to judge by the people, more than a quarter consists of Turks, the remainder being Greeks. The island is about forty miles by twenty in breadth, and contains fifty villages of various sizes. Its population is estimated at 20,000, of which more than 15,000 are Greeks. It contains several commodious ports; one of which, Port Oliver, is remarkable for its size, and as affording an excellent anchorage for vessels of the largest size, from all winds.

At nine o'clock we returned to our little craft, and while our crew were making preparations for departure, my attention was called to a scene which, I am told, is not unusual in Greece. A fishing-boat had just arrived, and was lying about ten feet from the wharf, which was crowded with people. Handkerchiefs, baskets, and other missiles were flying to and fro between the wharf and boat; and upon inquiry, I was informed that this was the usual manner in which fish or other commodities are vended among the Greeks. The money was tied up in a handkerchief and thrown on board; the value in fish was returned in the same way; and the cautious distance between the boat and wharf was preserved in order to prevent them from coming on board to steal; and this, too, in ancient Lesbos, the birth-place of Alceus and Terpander, one of

“The isles of Greece, the isles of Greece,  
Where burning Sappho loved and sung.”

Mytilene is, of course, under the special control of the

P P P



captain pacha ; and although it does not raise more than six months' grain, yet its wine and oil are produced in great quantities ; and furnishing vessels for the imperial navy, it is of no small value to the government. It may be necessary to explain the phrase used above, in reference to the quantity of grain produced. An island which can only raise enough corn for the supply of six months in the year is said to have six months' grain, and so of various other periods. The wine of this island, which we tasted first as a matter of duty, in order to make a faithful report, we afterward drank with much goût as a testimony to its merits. It is dark coloured, with a rough sweetish taste, not unlike the noble Spanish paxarete. We recommend future travellers to replenish their canteens with *Lesbian wine* from the "innocentes pocula Lesbii."

From the specimens which we picked up in our rambles in the environs of the town, Mytilene stands upon a calcareous rock which is disposed in horizontal layers.

As we rowed slowly out of the harbour, we had leisure to admire the singular beauty of the town, with the neat stone houses, which surround it ; and on the side of the mountain a majestic aqueduct, attributed, upon good authority, to the Genoese. To the south of the town is an extensive plain and slope, covered by extensive groves of the olive-tree, which constitute the great and peculiar wealth of the island. I never could admire the olive-tree when standing by itself, with its gnarled and knotted trunk and sallow sickly-looking leaves ; but in a grove the effect is different, or perhaps it was rendered more striking by the general barrenness of the country around. Certain it is that I have rarely seen a more striking landscape ; and the appearance of numerous white neat farm-houses, peering out from among the dark foliagé, lent new charms to the scene.

Aided by a favourable breeze, we scudded merrily along, with Scio and Ipsara in sight, and by four in the afternoon entered the Gulf of Smyrna ; passed by, on our left, a little

scattering village of square-built stone houses, looking, for all the world, like a group of castles in the Highlands of Scotland. Our captain called it *Bahlzoom*, and described it as celebrated for its fine-flavoured long grapes, which indeed its name would seem to indicate.

The summits of the hills had the appearance, at a distance, of being crowded with gigantic edifices; but as we drew nearer, we were enabled by the aid of our glasses to ascertain that they were scattered masses of basaltic or porphyritic columns, cropping out, as the geologists express it, above the surface. The cliffs along the shore were low and variegated with many colours, and are probably composed of calcareous earths. Up rose the yellow moon, as we glided past old Phoea, one of the twelve cities of ancient Ionia, whose affecting story was told by Herodotus 2500 years ago. It resembles, in its fate, the modern Parga; but unlike that ill-fated district, it had not to accuse the perfidy of civilized Christians, calling themselves statesmen, of accelerating its downfall. When hotly pressed by Cyrus, they chose, rather than remain slaves, to quit their homes; and embarking all their families, wandered about the Mediterranean, and formed various settlements; many of which, as Marseilles, are now flourishing cities; while the former abode of wealth, industry, and intelligence is now a dreary desolate spot, marked only by ruinous deserted houses and mouldering walls.

The breeze freshened, and old Ali wanted to stop for the night, but as the weather was clear, and our boat drew but little water, we preferred keeping on to our destination. A Turk generally will have his way, but as we were peremptory, our old captain, rather than be bothered with an open quarrel, continued on his course. At eleven at night we ran plump upon a sand-spit which stretches far out across the bay, and as the wind blew rather fresh we stood some chance of being swamped. A scene of confusion ensued, which, in spite of our danger, was truly

laughable. Poles and oars were put in requisition, but, as every one pushed in the direction he pleased, we had a pleasing illustration of the doctrine of oppository forces, and the boat of course remained in the same spot. Matters were, however, getting too serious to remain long in this situation. We struck a light, unfolded a chart of the bay, and from the bearings of the Brothers, a conspicuous landmark, we were enabled, by a small compass, to ascertain our actual position. This we explained to old Ali, who, ever since we grounded had kept hold of the tiller, and to all our questions gave only sulky replies. The truth was, he knew no more than the man in the moon where he was, and endeavoured to conceal his ignorance under a torrent of surly Inshallahs and Mashallahs. This was not to be borne, the men were willing to be directed by us if we would only give the word, and I accordingly stepped forward, and seizing an oar myself, directed the crew to push in the same manner. While we thus got fairly afloat, my companion stepped aft, and tumbling old Ali head over heels from the helm, coolly took his place. I expected to witness some outrageous exhibition of passion on the part of our old commander, but was agreeably disappointed when I saw him squat down in the bottom of the boat, and composedly commence lighting his pipe. He was no doubt meditating upon the impudence of his Yankee passengers.

By keeping a bright look-out we were enabled to continue our course. At one o'clock we passed the castle, a low insignificant work mounting 15 or 20 guns, apparently more for show than use; and at three in the morning we made fast to the custom-house wharf of Smyrna, somewhat fatigued, but, on the whole, much gratified with our little voyage.

## CHAPTER L.

Carnival—Concert—Modern Greek Language—Cassino Balls—Waltzing—Private Theatricals—Mr. Arundel's Collection—Mr. Borel the Antiquarian—Counterfeit Coins—Ride to the Khammans—Public Slaughterhouse—Hot Springs—Explanation of certain Phenomena connected with these Springs—Turkish Politeness—Region about the Springs.

THE carnival at Smyrna is a season of gayety in which all sects appear to unite with equal animation. Concerts, balls, and private theatricals, succeed each other with stunning rapidity; and the French hospitality, and warm-hearted attentions of the Smyrniots, render it impossible, even if one's wishes were adverse, to avoid participating in the festivities and amusements of the season. The *hai good xperu*, or happy new-year, is heard from every lip, and the gayly-dressed crowds are hurrying through their rounds of visits, or hastening to some scene of amusement, and even the taciturn Turk seems to catch a portion of the general animation.

A concert, partly professional and partly got up by amateurs, was numerously attended this evening by the fashion of Smyrna. The concert was held in a large magazine, which has been neatly fitted up for the exhibition of private theatricals during the winter season. It is capable of containing 300 persons, and over the stage is inscribed in large characters the deprecating motto, "*Si desunt vires, tamen est laudanda voluntas.*" The music was well selected, and my ears were greeted with strains which had formerly delighted them on the banks of the Hudson, the Elbe, the Seine, and Tagus. Of the execution it may be said that it was respectable, and the audience particularly indulgent. As a local peculiarity I noticed that the front seats were

secured for the *genii loci*, the consuls of the place and their respective families, and to them alone were distributed programmes of the entertainment. To judge from this assembly, I should certainly award the palm of beauty to the ladies of Smyrna. There were several English and American ladies present, but they had so entirely adopted the manner, costume, and even language of the country, that it was almost impossible to distinguish them from their fair Smyrniot neighbours. I recollect holding a long and animated conversation with a young lady, who appeared to speak several languages with equal fluency with the exception of English, of which she candidly avowed herself to be ignorant, although she was the daughter of English parents. It sounds odd to an American to be formally introduced to a Mrs. Johnson, or Thomson, or Davis, or to a Miss Smith, or Black, or Wilson, and to find that they cannot speak a word of English. Greek is the language used in most families, and is the first language a child learns. It does not fall agreeably upon a foreign ear, owing to the very high pitch of ordinary conversation. When read with emphasis and due discretion by an educated lady, or as I have heard it spoken by the lovely Helenitza F., it is full of sweet and musical sounds, and hardly to be surpassed by that softest of all European languages the German. It certainly is more euphonous than colloquial Italian. The performance closed at the goodly hour of ten, and as carriages are unknown here, the company picked their way home through the dark and dismal streets, preceded by servants bearing lanterns.

The casino balls, to which I was invited during my residence here, were well got up and brilliantly attended. There was much variety in the dancing, but the graceful waltz was the deserved favourite: indeed, it was amusing to notice that when they commenced with an old-fashioned English country dance, or a quadrille, in the course of a few minutes every one was waltzing away independently

with their partners. I regretted to observe that the card-rooms were crowded with gentlemen, who, if they did not actually gamble, played much higher than gentlemen should permit themselves to do. Indeed, this vice prevails unfortunately to too great an extent among the European residents at Smyrna.

We had the honour of an invitation to private *theatricals* at the house of the French consul. The performances were *Marriage de Raison et Partie Revanche*; and the best praise I can award them is, that they did it almost as well as professional actors. The fair hostess (a daughter of the celebrated Didot) attracted merited applause; and his excellency the consul himself enacted the part of a *pere noble* with much talent. Sunday evenings are considered in Smyrna as most appropriate for these and similar entertainments.

The state of the weather and other causes have prevented me from putting in execution my intention of visiting Ephesus and Magnesia. This I the more regret, as I was to have been accompanied in the excursion by Mr. Brewer and Mr. Arundel. The latter gentleman had already made the tour of the seven churches, and was desirous of verifying some statements which have been published since the appearance of his "history." He has a small but exceedingly valuable collection of antiques, collected by himself in this country, which may almost be considered as the birthplace of Christianity. In his collection, which he politely permitted me to examine, I remarked a bronze candlestick, of very ancient workmanship, with seven branches, which, it will be recollected, is selected by the divine as typical of the seven churches of Asia. Another scriptural antiquity interested me exceedingly. It is a plain box, neatly turned out of plaster of Paris, or alabaster, and about the size of a shaving-box, with a cover of the same material. It was dug out of some ruins in Ephesus, if I remember aright, and when first in the possession of Mr.

Arundel, gave out an agreeable perfume. Is not one forcibly reminded of "the alabaster box of precious ointment" which Mary used to anoint the feet of our Saviour. The collection of minerals belonging to Mr. Arundel is also extensively interesting, and characteristic of the region in which they have been collected.

The stranger in Smyrna will derive much information and pleasure from an acquaintance with Mr. Borel, who is well known to all the archæologists of Europe. He has the reputation of being profoundly versed in numismatics, and his library relating to this subject is perhaps more extensive and complete than any similar private collection in the world. He has recently disposed of one of his collections for \$30,000, and prosecutes his investigations with untiring zeal. I was indebted to Mr. B. for several hints on the means of detecting a genuine antique from a counterfeit, but the fear of being imposed upon has hitherto prevented me from making any collection beyond Turkish aspers, paras, and piasters. The name of an individual was mentioned who had obtained at Constantinople large sums of money by selling imitations of the rarest and most valuable coins to travellers. He was detected, and obliged to quit the country. Mr. B. has invented a machine, with which he is enabled to copy the impression of a coin or medal, and transfer it with the greatest possible exactness to paper.

One of the many pleasant rides about Smyrna led me along the shores of the bay towards Vourla. Accompanied by Mr. Brewer I passed out of the city by the custom-house and the Tunisian consulate, which is distinguished by its large red flag with the sword in the centre. This, in contra-distinction to the other consulates, is always kept unfurled to the breeze. After passing the barracks, the road lies near the seaside, and forms a delightful promenade, which might at a small expense be converted into an excel-

lent carriage-road. Some three or four years since, the European merchants attempted to make a good road, and the then pacha entered warmly into their views, making a part of the road at his own expense. Indeed, had the entire matter been left to him, this Turk would have completed it in a workmanlike and durable manner; but collisions ensued between the various European projectors as to how it should be done, and the road remains unfinished.

The rocks project out from the mountain, and crossing the road to the water's edge, often form excellent subjects for the pencil of the landscape-painter. At one place, in particular, about two miles from the city, the mountain projects forward into the sea, and the rocks present several bold and picturesque forms. Here, upon turning about, we were presented with a novel view in the direction of Smyrna. The lower part of the city only was visible, the rest being concealed by the shoulder of the hill, which is paved with Jewish and Armenian graves. The venerable castle of the old Greek empire, and the Turkish cemetery with its invariable accompaniment of dark cypresses were full in view, while across the harbour were the towering mountains which extend across the country in the direction of Magnesia. The rock near the city is porphyritic; at first of a reddish hue, shortly after becoming a conglomerate porphyry,—by which I would mean to designate, a porphyritic rock containing rounded and irregular masses of porphyry, frequently of a different colour, and often approaching in lustre to the variety termed pitchstone porphyry. We passed several substantial stone bridges over mountain-torrents which cross the road, and the fields on our left were apparently under excellent cultivation.

Not far from this point on the right is an abattoir, or large public building, where all the animals destined for the market at Smyrna are slaughtered. This is a useful establishment, as it removes at once all the dirt, filth, and



stench connected with these operations, and aids materially towards the health and cleanliness of the city. It is on the water's edge, and all the offals are carried off by the water of the bay. Much of the meat is transported to the city in boats, although a considerable quantity is also carried by land. I hardly remember to have seen a more ludicrous figure than was presented by one of these slaughter-house porters. The skinned carcass is borne on the shoulders, while the head of the porter is thrust into the inside of the animal, and nothing appears to show that a man's head is snugly ensconced within, but the projection of a long pipe, and the occasional eruption of tobacco-smoke from the very bowels of the animal.

The former governor, or meridgee, deserves great credit for various other public-spirited improvements which he was instrumental in introducing. It is to be regretted that a measure which has been found beneficial by the unenlightened Turks should not have more advocates in civilized America. Our own favoured city would find, by adopting a similar plan, the value of property much enhanced in certain districts which are now neglected, in consequence of their proximity to those disgusting nuisances—private slaughter-houses.

We shortly after entered an extensive plain, covered with olive-trees, and the open spaces were covered with large flocks of goats, which furnish all the milk to the city. On the road we had occasion to confirm our previous impressions respecting the almost constitutional politeness of the Turks. A single word addressed to them in their own language was sufficient to call forth a volume of gratulatory phrases in return. This was frequently accompanied by the offer of a pipe, and, if near a coffee-house, by a polite invitation to partake with them of a cup of coffee.

At the foot of the hills which form the northern extremity of the Tmolus, and which is marked on the ancient charts as Mons Corax, we reached the hammam, or hot-bath,

which is the great natural curiosity of this vicinity. It is perhaps not generally known that the Turkish word *khammam*, or hot-spring, has furnished a name for one of the most conspicuous taverns of London. It would not be difficult to trace under the name of the Hummum Hotel the origin of the first hot-bath à la Turque introduced into England.

These springs rise in the bed of a mountain-stream, and their localities are indicated by the vapour which hangs over the surface. Their temperature varies from 100° to 130° of Fahrenheit; and I was surprised to see fishes swimming about with perfect unconcern, and molluscous animals (*Melanopoides*), in water so hot that I could barely keep my hands in it a few seconds at a time. Upon reaching my hand to the bottom, where the fishes had been disporting so freely, I discovered that the water there was scarcely above the ordinary temperature, owing to its admixture with the cool current of the mountain-stream.

The jet of hot water issues from the side, or near the bottom of the little excavation, and immediately rises to the surface, in consequence of its elevated temperature; the cool water of the stream falls to the bottom, from its superior gravity; and hence, as I was enabled to prove by direct experiment, there were successive layers, or streams, of water of various degrees of temperature. In this way we may undoubtedly explain many otherwise marvellous accounts of travellers, who describe animals inhabiting a medium in which, according to the laws regulating organic life, it would be utterly impossible for them to exist.

But even with this explanation, it must require considerable experience, and no small degree of adroitness, on the part of the fishes, to keep themselves out of hot water; for the least inadvertence would inevitably expose them to the hazard of being parboiled.

This entire region has been from the remotest period the seat of earthquakes, and these hot-springs indicate traces

of the sources of old volcanoes. The rocks, as one would be led to expect, change their character. The distinct porphyritic rock and the porphyritic conglomerate no longer appear; but in their place we have a homogeneous fissile rock variously contorted, but more generally assuming a vertical direction. In some places we noticed its passage into soft clay-slate, with intervening layers of a soft argillaceous earth, similar to the lithomarga of the Isle of Arran. We penetrated with some difficulty through the bushes and in the channel of the stream, but the declining sun warned us to hasten our departure. The western side of this ravine is formed by bold overhanging limestone bluffs; and in the face of the rock, 150 feet at least above our heads, we remarked the entrance to caves, which may one day reward the researches of the enterprising geologist.

These springs are apparently due west from the castle on the bay, and about four miles distant. The waters are slightly impregnated with sulphur, and crowds resort here at all seasons to obtain relief from disease. They have been found particularly useful in scrofulous and cutaneous affections, and in chronic rheumatism. To the humanity of some individual the public are indebted for a large substantial stone building, which is erected over the main spring; and we were apprized before we reached the spot, by the merry shouts and screams within, that a party of women had taken possession. One or two little girls, partly naked, ran out to warn us to remove; but, as we had no felonious intentions, we tied our horses under the shed, and commenced our dinner. The women and children came out shortly afterward, and, upon a very slight invitation, partook of our frugal repast. They behaved very well, and took their leave with many thanks for our slight civilities. It is said that a temple and some mosaic pavement have been discovered here, corresponding with the site of one dedicated to Esculapius, as described by Pausanias. We could find no traces of either. The various pieces of

pottery, fragments of buildings, and the remains of an aqueduct along the western edge of the ravine, extending some distance up the stream, would seem to indicate that this place has been once a famous spot; but of all that once may have existed here, nothing remains but the eternal and unchanging face of nature.

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## CHAPTER LI.

News from Syria—Revolt of Mehemet Ali—His History—Civilization—Causes of his Revolt—His Sons, Toussoum, Ismäel, and Ibrahim—Death of Ismäel—Notice of Mr. English—Character of the principal Officers of Ibrahim.

It is not often, unless by plague, pestilence, or earthquake, that the various nations composing the community of Smyrna are affected in common; and yet the news which has reached us to-day has created quite a buzz among all classes. It is confidently stated that Mehemet Ali with his son Ibrahim has taken Gaza and Joppa, and has commenced the siege of Acre.

As the revolt of this daring pacha will in all probability have a great effect upon the future destinies of Turkey, it may be well to devote a few pages to his history. Mehemet Ali is now sixty-three years old; he was born at Cavale, near Salonika, and was originally a trader in tobacco. He was sent at an early age into Egypt, where his bravery, skill, and prudence soon ensured him distinction and a rapid rise in his profession, and in 1805 he was appointed Pacha of Egypt. The English cabinet, who were not particularly pleased to see a man of his stamp at the head of affairs, solicited and obtained from the sultan an order for his recall. He put off obeying this order under various pretexts, until

the sultan, having occasion for his services in that quarter, permitted him to remain, or possibly found it impracticable to enforce obedience. Since that period, Mehemet Ali has steadily moved on in his career; quelling domestic insurrections, and extending the boundaries of his empire. During the war in the Morea, Mehemet afforded valuable aid to his nominal master; but when, in 1828, the sultan sent a pacha to replace the ports of Alexandria and Damietta under the immediate dependence of the Porte, and to bring back to Constantinople the Turkish vessels which had escaped the iniquitous Navarino affair, together with a certain number of Egyptian men of war, the pacha refused to obey. One would have thought that conduct like this would have opened the eyes of the sultan to the ulterior designs of this powerful subject, who is designated as *Padir shah*; but whether from fear, or the treachery of the divan, or the force of circumstances (at this time the Russians were threatening the capital), or from that procrastinating policy which will sooner or later crumble the Ottoman empire to dust, no notice was taken of this rebellious conduct. He has been repeatedly warned by the sultan, since he commenced his warlike operations, to desist; but he paid about the same attention to his mandates that the English and French formerly did to the proclamations of President Jefferson. It is the belief of a gentleman who was brought up in this country, that if the sultan had, upon the first hostile demonstration, blockaded Alexandria, he would have effectually quelled the ambition of his rebellious pacha. But no; *firmaun* after *firmaun* was sent to Mehemet, which he kissed with affected reverence; and while uttering the most solemn protestations of his fidelity and his willingness to be the humble slave of the sultan, he remitted no efforts to place himself on a footing of equality with his nominal master.

Mehemet is, indeed, an extraordinary man. Without a single advantage of birth or education (it was in his 45th

year that he learned to read and write) he has raised himself to be the absolute monarch over millions of people, and controls an annual revenue of twenty-five millions of dollars. His flatterers compare him to his illustrious countryman, Macedonia's madman, but except in his military career the comparison is at fault. In one respect, however, he far surpasses the character of Alexander, such as it has descended to us through the pages of history. He has strenuously laboured to civilize his people, and although he has nearly annihilated them, he has not succeeded entirely; yet he has effected enough to prevent them from falling back into their former barbarity. He found them a nation of robbers; of these he selected the best for soldiers, and compelled the rest to labour. The soil of Egypt repays the slightest attention of the husbandman with the most abundant harvests, and to ensure their constant labour, he takes from them, in the form of taxes, all their surplus revenue. In this way he grinds them to the dust, and exercises, through his subordinates, the greatest cruelty and oppression; but, like the modern political economist, he considers individual suffering as of no account when weighed against his favourite theory, that to be happy everybody must be at work. As a consequence of his oppression, Egypt is a country of paupers, and the pacha is the sole manufacturer, the sole merchant, and the only shipper in his dominions.

To escape from his oppression thousands of his subjects have fled into Syria, and it is to cut them off from this place of refuge that Ibrahim has determined upon the present expedition. Some suppose that he has views upon the throne itself, but the better informed appear to limit his ambition to the possession of Syria.

Mehemet had three sons,—Toussoun, the eldest, who is now dead, Ismaël, the invader of Ethiopia, who was killed near Sennaar, and Ibrahim, who is now forty years old. Ismaël had caused some chiefs at Sennaar, upon some slight pretext, to be bastinadoed; they carefully cherished this

insult, and watched for an opportunity to be revenged. Such an occasion soon presented itself. Having learned that Ismaël was at a small village, guarded only by forty men, they attacked the place, killed Ismaël and all his guards, and burned the houses to the ground. This event occurred in November, 1821. His father, old Mehemet, took a terrible revenge, and under Ahmet Bey, his troops destroyed and dispersed a population of 200,000 souls. The whole district was rendered a desert.\*

Of all his sons, Ibrahim most resembles old Mehemet. He terminated, successfully, the war against the Wahabees, a sort of Mohammedan Methodists, and in the Morea distinguished himself equally by the energy and judgment which he displayed against the arms of the Greeks and the diplomatic acts of the European cabinets. Like his father, too, he is distinguished for his insatiable avarice and his indulgence in sensual gratifications. In tracing the history of Ibrahim, it is pleasing to find, even upon the most barbarous prince, the benign influence of public opinion. In his expeditions against the hordes of Wahabees, Ibrahim

\* The mention of Ismaël Pacha recalls to mind the memory of a countryman, the late George B. English, who accompanied Ismaël into Ethiopia as general of artillery. He has left behind him a relation of this expedition under the title of "Narrative of an Expedition to Dongola and Sennaar." I had some years ago the pleasure of an acquaintance with this gentleman, and still recollect with pleasure the fund of anecdote and information which his various wanderings in different parts of the world had furnished him with. He had adopted completely the Turkish immobility of feature, and would frequently set the table in a roar by some amusing anecdote, while not a single muscle of his own face would be discomposed. He was subsequently employed by our government to form a treaty with Turkey, but failed through some unworthy jealousies on the part of his collaborators. While an applicant for office at Washington he died in great poverty.

Two other Americans, one a New-Yorker, under the name of Khalil Aga, and the other known as Achmet Aga, were in the Egyptian army. Khalil is perhaps the only individual who has traversed the whole course of the Nile from Sennaar to Rosetta. He is still in Egypt, where, I hear, that he is distinguished for his courage and good conduct. Achmet died a few years ago.

displayed the most cold-blooded atrocity, and yet (notwithstanding the assertions of mendacious Greeks) his conduct in the Morea was distinguished by a minute attention to the rules of modern warfare, and even by traits of humanity.

The principal officers of Mehemet are his sons-in-law and other relatives. His grandson, a son of Toussoum Pacha, is now in Syria with his uncle Ibrahim. The admiral of the fleet, Mouhareem Bey, a son-in-law of Mehemet, is a man of no particular eminence, but he has excellent French and Greek officers under him, well appointed vessels, and in all probability will be a match for the Ottoman fleet.

Ahmet Bey, another son-in-law, is the Destardar of Egypt, and has committed atrocities which would disgrace even the most cruel of our Indian tribes. It is reported, that upon one occasion a poor woman complained that a soldier had drunk her milk, and refused to pay her; he ordered the stomach of the soldier to be ripped open upon the spot, giving the woman warning, at the same time, that if the milk was not found she must submit to the same fate. Luckily for the poor woman, the milk was found in the stomach of the soldier, and she was dismissed, after having been paid for her milk.

The minister of the interior, Scherif Bey, is also a relative of Mehemet. He bears an irreproachable character, and is governor of Upper Egypt.

Osman Bey is the major-general of the army. He resided seven years in England, France, and Italy, and upon his return founded Lancaster schools, and a military and naval college. He is active in his endeavours to introduce all the arts of civilized life, and is the chief favourite with the padir shah of Egypt.

The minister of commerce and of the interior, Youssouf, is an Armenian of Smyrna, of great talents, of unwearied application, and immense wealth. Mehemet places great confidence in him, and indeed, from his position, he may be called the prime minister of Egypt.



In summing up this brief account of the situation of Egypt, and the men by whom it is governed, it is impossible to refrain from speculating upon the influence which this rebellion will have upon the future destinies of Turkey. That it will cripple the resources of both parties there can be little doubt, and much blood and treasure will be uselessly wasted. Both will expose themselves to be a weakened prey to their now quiet enemies, for it scarcely requires a prophetic eye to see that Turkey will be an easier morsel to Russia, while Egypt will be overrun with the soldiers of England, who is anxiously desirous of securing Egypt, as the important key to her Indian possessions.\*

\* Since writing the above, the progress of the rebellious pacha has been a continuous series of victories, and while these pages are passing through the press, the head-quarters of his army has been established at Konieh, distant 280 miles from the capital, and the flower of the Moslem army has been totally destroyed. There are two points cleared up by these events, upon which there has hitherto been no small difference of opinion. The one is, that the troops of Mehemet are better disciplined than those of the sultan. The practice of the Egyptian chief has been, not only to drill and exercise his troops in the European fashion, but he has also given foreigners important commands in his army. Such a one is Col. Sève, formerly an aid of Marshal Ney, a gallant and distinguished officer, who now serves in the Egyptian army under the name of Suleiman Bey. This gentleman has had much to contend with in reducing the troops to the perfect state of submission and subordination required by modern tactics. His life has not only often been threatened, but actually attempted, and he has been frequently saved merely by his own personal intrepidity. Upon one occasion, Planet(a) relates that a volley having been fired, a ball whizzed past his ear. Without the slightest emotion he commanded the party to reload their pieces; "You are very bad marksmen," he exclaimed; "Make ready—fire." They fired, but no ball was heard; his self-possession and steadiness not only disarmed their resentment, but ever afterward excited their admiration. The Egyptian army has many officers equally brave, if not quite as distinguished as Suleiman Bey, and, as far as the materials go, their efforts have been steadily directed towards disciplining the Egyptian army.

The Turkish troops, on the other hand, have indeed been drilled by European officers, but not one has been permitted to assume a command. The

(a) *Histoire de la Regeneration de l'Egypt*, Geneva, 1830.

## CHAPTER LII.

Bazar—Fruit-market—Figs—Ancient Phrygian Tapestry—Wine—Madder—Persian Berries.

A WALK through the bazars of Smyrna show them to be infinitely inferior to those of Constantinople, either in the extent, variety, or magnificence of the articles offered for sale. The fruit-market, however, is a real curiosity, and as such merits a particular description. The great fig season is

consummate vanity of the Osmanlis would have been wounded by being compelled to obey a foreign officer, and they have been beaten soundly for their stupidity. The sultan, it is well known, was in favour of thus employing them, but he has been overruled by his divan. The Egyptian chief, on the other hand, whose will is his law, and who has no one in all his wide domains to offer the slightest opposition to his mandates, has succeeded in compelling his soldiers to obey foreign officers, and thus far his superior discipline has rendered his arms victorious.

Another opinion has been hazarded by recent travellers, that the reforms introduced by the sultan have so disgusted, not only the people, but the soldiery, that the latter would take the earliest opportunity to revolt, and turn their arms against the sultan. The recent bloody conflicts between the Turkish and Egyptian troops have clearly demonstrated, that although constantly beaten with great loss, yet that no instances of desertion ever took place among the newly disciplined troops of the sultan.

The idea has been entertained by some, that Mehemet Ali intends to push his armies to the capital, and, after dethroning the present sultan, to place his son Abdool Hamid upon the throne. In this, it is said, he calculates largely upon the support of the hierarchy of Constantinople, who have regarded all the sultan's measures with great disgust, and having been deprived of their right arm by the destruction of the Janizaries, would hail with delight the approach of a usurper from almost any quarter. It is no doubt true that this party are indifferent as to the progress of the Egyptian chief, but his presence in Constantinople, at the head of a victorious army, would be the signal for their utter annihilation.

Usref, or Khosref Pacha, the present seraiskier of the sultan, was formerly governor of Cairo, and in attempting to curb the early ambition of Mehemet,

now over, but the various operations connected with or dependent upon the fruit-trade, such as coopers, sorters, packers, &c., continue the whole year round. They are now receiving and packing raisins, which are daily unloading from the camels in the market-place. The raisins are trod into barrels by the feet, which information may furnish our tidy housekeepers with a hint to wash them previous to use. These raisins are generally of the small sorts used in pastry; indeed, I do not recollect to have seen any bunch raisins in the market. We noticed enormous quantities of a very dark-coloured raisin, which is chiefly exported to the Black Sea. Among the many varieties, the sultana raisin was pointed out to us, as coming chiefly from the district of Karabournou. This is a very delicate yellowish raisin, without seeds, and much in request for superior articles of confectionary. The names of Smyrna and of figs are so intimately connected, that I should be inexcusable were I to pass over this luscious fruit in silence. Smyrna has long been celebrated for its figs, and at the present day they form one of its most valuable exports.\*

was discomfited, and compelled to fly from Cairo. For several years it was a doubtful struggle which should obtain the upper hand; but the superior management of the Egyptian chief prevailed, and since that period they have been avowed and bitter enemies.

\* In spite of the phrase "not worth a fig," its history is full of interest, and a clever writer could make out of it an entertaining book. Commencing from that eventful period, when

"By Adam's fall,  
We sinned all,"

he might show to what purposes even the leaves of this interesting fruit-tree were applied. He would then be able to state that dried figs formed the chief article of commerce among the earliest of the Athenians, and that they were considered such an article of luxury, that the Romans were accustomed to express a refined epicure by saying, *Ficus edit*—he eats figs. Another chapter would set forth that one of the motives which led to the famous expedition of Xerxes was to possess the country which produced such an excellent fruit. Our author might then advert to the third Punic war, which

The season for the packing of figs does not last more than three weeks, and of course much expedition is required in preparing them for market. It is not uncommon during this period to witness the daily arrival of 1500 camels, each loaded with 5 or 600 weight of figs, and some of these come from a distance of 70 and even 100 miles from Smyrna. Many of the principal merchants have from 500 to 800 hands employed in preparing and packing them, and for this purpose men, women, and children are indiscriminately employed. Their wages are from two and a half to twelve cents per day, and they are allowed besides to eat as many as they please, but to carry none away. As soon as the fresh figs arrive, they are carefully assorted for the different markets, the best being selected for the English trade. They are then washed in salt-water, rubbed between the hands, and after a final squeeze, which produces a concave and convex surface, they are handed over to the packer. This person arranges them in such a manner that the convex surface of one fig is received into the concave surface of another, and when the box or drum is filled, a few laurel leaves are spread over them.

It was stated to me by an intelligent merchant, that the quantity of figs and raisins annually exported amounts to 100,000 tons, costing, upon an average, about \$60 per ton.

also originated in a desire to possess the African region, then producing the best figs in the world. He might introduce the famous passage from Plutarch, in which figs were used as an aid to the eloquence even of Cato. It would also appear that the famous delenda Carthago should be translated "we must have figs." A chapter for the benefit of physicians would show that Dioscorides and Galen have written concerning its medicinal qualities; while another chapter would teach the chymical world how sympathetic ink and caoutchouc, or India rubber, may be obtained from this remarkable fruit-tree. A chapter dedicated to the temperance associations would teach them how to obtain a delicious liquor from the fig, known to the ancients under the name of *syctis*,<sup>(a)</sup> and testimonials might be adduced from various authors to show that it did not contain the smallest quantity of alcohol.

(a) Pliny.

The whole of this sum, deducting the expense of transportation, is clear gain, for the fig-tree requires no attention whatever, and flourishes upon a barren soil. The preserved fig, as prepared by housekeepers in Smyrna, is a most delicious fruit, and far superior to the ordinary fig of commerce. Old residents assure me that the fig has much deteriorated of late, which they impute to the trees being now worn out by age. As the fig-tree is, however, a tree of rapid growth, and can be replaced with great ease, I am rather inclined to doubt this assertion, and to place it to the old score of *laudatores temporis acti*.

While upon this subject I may as well assemble here all the information which I was able to collect during my stay in relation to the trade of Smyrna, and more especially its trade with the United States.

Formerly our trade with Smyrna was carried on under the sanction and protection of the English Levant Company, and for this privilege we paid from 4000 to \$5000 annually. It is doubted by some whether our trade has experienced a proportionate increase with the number of American vessels trading to this port of late years; for it is stated that the cargoes of several vessels would not equal in value that of a single ship some fifteen or twenty years ago. The duties on American imports are not yet determined, although it is said that our minister proposes to adopt the French tariff, which by the treaty he is allowed to do. By this tariff our products will pay three per cent. duty, and ten per cent. additional.

The chief imports in American vessels to this place are coffee, sugar, spices, dye-stuffs, rum, and domestic cottons and furniture. It is curious, in looking at this list of imports, to perceive that a country which was once the centre of civilization, the seat of the arts, and distinguished above all others for the perfection to which its luxurious and elegant inhabitants carried their refinement, should now receive their chief luxuries from a new quarter of the globe, which

has not been known much more than 250 years. Even the far-famed Phrygian tapestry, such as it now appears under the name of Turkey carpets,\* yield the palm to specimens of American carpeting which I have seen at Smyrna. As the trade of coffee and sugar is chiefly in the hands of the Americans, we are in some degree associated in the minds of the Turks with those products; and if a Turk could be brought to envy the condition of any one, he would undoubtedly be disposed, in consideration of our having such luxuries in abundance, to prefer changing situations with an American above any other nation. As a general rule, the inferior qualities both of coffee and sugar find the readiest sale. The annual importation of coffee from America is 13,000 bags. Just now the supply of coffee is very small, and the price has consequently advanced nearly threefold. With the usual judgment of that intelligent animal, the public, in most countries, this dearness of coffee is attributed to the machinations of the government. Our domestic cottons of the description termed bleached sheetings, one yard wide, command here a ready sale at this time of ten cents per yard. Indigo was formerly an article which we supplied in great quantities, but the English have completely undersold, and driven us out of the market. The consumption of this article is almost daily increasing, for I was informed that in two years it has increased from 700 to 1200 boxes of 400 lbs. each; the best sells here for \$1 25 per lb.

The chief articles of export are wool, opium, drugs, old copper, hides, soap, Persian berries, oil of roses, fruit, and wine. The wool is coarse in quality, and until recently has been rarely cleansed sufficiently to render it marketable. Although loaded with a heavy duty in America, it generally pays well. It costs from twelve to seventeen cents

\* These are principally manufactured at Oushah, or Hushah, about 140 miles west from Smyrna.

per lb., according to its quality, delivered on board. One year with another, the quantity exported to the United States amounts to 4000 square bales, containing each from 3 to 600 lbs. Its present price on board is fifteen cents per lb.

I can furnish no estimate of the quantity of opium exported to the United States.\* It is well known to be the best in the world. By a decision of the government, the market for opium has been removed to Constantinople, and consequently it will soon cease to be one of the exports of Smyrna. It sells here now at \$3 25 the checqui, which is 1½ lbs. Although the consumption of this article is as great with us as in any other country in the world, we are unable to find a market for all of it, and a great deal is re-exported to India. Much of this, I am informed, is smuggled into China, in vessels fitted out from the United States especially for this object.

The wine is chiefly from the Greek islands, and vessels frequently go to Samos to complete their cargoes. It is generally a sweet, strong-flavoured wine, and I am informed is used at home in combination with cider and other scarce and expensive liquors, to manufacture those vile articles sold in taverns and steamboats under the imposing names of Teneriffe, Lisbon, and Madeira. It is at present loaded with a duty larger than that upon French wines, and for the interests of humanity it were to be wished that it could be altogether prohibited. Old copper, which now sells at sixteen cents per lb., forms another important item of export, and this with soap, otto of roses, medicinal gums, and Persian berries, nearly completes the list. The last-mentioned article is extensively used as a dye, and its consumption is annually increasing in the United States.

\* Our intelligent consul at Smyrna furnishes an annual list of exports and imports to the department of state; but there it lies among other equally valuable reports, overlooked and forgotten.

These berries are the fruit of a species of lycium, and give a beautiful yellow die. There are two kinds, of which the best is raised in Asia; the inferior quality comes from Roumelia, and more particularly the neighbourhood of Adrianople. The prices here are fourteen and twenty-five cents per lb., according to the quality.

The celebrated oil or attar of roses is also extensively exported from Smyrna, although much of it is derived from Roumelia. When genuine, the real rose odour is not apparent, and it is so easy to imitate that much caution is necessary in the purchase. It is adulterated with fine olive and other oils, and even with spermaceti. The only test which can be at all depended on is, that the genuine oil congeals at a temperature of not far from 70° of Fahrenheit. To prevent its evaporation, the bottles containing it are always surrounded by salt. It is worth here \$1 80 the ounce.

A large article of export from Smyrna is madder, the *Rubia tinctorum* of authors. This valuable die never reaches us directly, but is sent to England and Holland, where it is ground, and probably adulterated. To grind this article properly requires mills of a peculiar construction, which, I learn from a clever merchant here, will soon be erected in our own country. As we consume at second-hand a great deal of this article, the direct trade will be much increased when these mills are erected.

Of the fruit we import annually from Smyrna 130,000 drums of figs, and 200 tons of raisins.

During the year ending December, 1831, the commerce of Smyrna with the United States employed 27 vessels and 300 men, according to the books of the American consulate.

The total imports to Smyrna during the same year amounted to three and a half millions of dollars; the total exports to eight millions.



## CHAPTER LIII.

Schools—Armenian—Greek—English Schools—Turkish Schoolmaster—  
Missionary Exertions—Marco Bozzaris—Greek Newspaper—Reading-  
room—Cassino—Regulations—Salmagundi—Market.

ACCOMPANIED by two American gentlemen, I visited a large school in the Turkish part of the town, where the Armenian youth are educated. It is a spacious building, surrounded by an open court, and affords airy, clean, and neat accommodations for two hundred scholars. The appearance of such a building spoke loudly in favour of the attention paid by the Armenians to this all-important subject, while the earnest attention and aptness displayed by the pupils gave a pleasing promise of their future usefulness. The school had been fitted up, as I was informed, under the direction of one of our American friends, and presented the hitherto novel sight in Turkey of regular seats and writing-desks. I should state, however, that these innovations were reserved for the more advanced scholars. The juvenile abecedarians we saw in the lower rooms still sitting cross-legged on the floor, and seeing their little bodies after the most approved orthodox Turkish fashion. The principal had been educated at the Metacharistan convent near Venice, and spoke French, Italian, Greek, and Turkish with apparently equal ease.

Among the assistants were two Turks, who superintended instruction in their own language and in Arabic. One of these was a venerable old man, with a silvery head, and whose most apostolical countenance interested us exceedingly. He held a long conversation in Arabic with Mr. King, and testified his surprise and pleasure in repeated exclamations, that a man from the New World should be

acquainted with a language which the Turks regard as at once sacred and classical. As the substance of the conversation was translated to us, we were struck with his frequent solemn allusions to the Omnipresence of the Deity, to his unity and goodness. Upon learning that Mr. King was a Hadji, that is to say, had made the pilgrimage to Jerusalem, which is considered a holy place by the Turks, as well as Mecca and Medina, his respect evidently increased. He was asked whether he had ever read the gospels? "Yes, frequently; but I am a Mussulman by the will of God," was his solemn and concise reply. Some one having made an allusion to his age, he stated "that he was born and had been brought up in Smyrna; here," continued he, stroking his head, "has my beard whitened, and here I am daily waiting for a visit from the angel of death, Azrael. For," added he, blowing upon the palm of his hand, which was held horizontally before him, "what are we all but the slightest dust before the great and good God of heaven and earth." We were much affected by the earnest simplicity of the venerable old man, and could not suppress the reflection that such fervid piety must find favour in the eyes of Omnipotence at the final day.

It is through the Armenians, who are essentially oriental in their habits, tastes, and feelings, that the missionaries hope to make an impression upon the Turks. Judging from my acquaintance with them in Constantinople, I should think them not exactly the best instruments for effecting this change. They are a people fond of the pomp of church worship, and fonder still of subtle disquisitions upon the most mystical points of divinity. Such of them as have embraced Catholicism, or something near it, exhibited a narrow, bigoted spirit, far exceeding that of their instructors; and they evidently paid more attention to the externals of religion, such as fasts and outward observances, than to those important practical parts which should shine out in their lives. My opinion is, as I have elsewhere re-

marked, that the impression must be made directly upon the Turks themselves, and as the simple unity of the Deity is the basis of their religion, the labours of that particular sect in our own country, which is distinguished by the eminent piety and learning of its members, would find here a congenial field.

Another pleasing sight was a school established by Mrs. Brewer, and under her superintendence, for the education of Greek girls. Mrs. B. has another school under her own roof, to which she devotes her more immediate care. The pupils pay for their instruction, and the money thus derived is expended upon the large school above mentioned. In addition to this, Mr. Brewer directs an excellent school, composed of the sons and daughters of Frank merchants. The instruction is in English, and it was curious to see the children of even English parents speaking their own language with a foreign accent. As I entered the school, one of the boys was reciting the well-known effusion of Marco Bozzaris; and various associations of a personal nature were produced on hearing this spirited lay delivered on the spot where the Greek formerly displayed his ancient heroism, and where now he was called upon in foreign accents to

Strike for his altars and his fires,  
God and his native land.

Mr. Brewer also conducts a paper in modern Greek, entitled ο Φίλος των νέων, or the Friend of Youth. It is filled with various moral and instructive essays, and has been the instrument of effecting much good. I regretted to learn that it would soon pass into other hands, for the owner of the press entertains the erroneous idea that money is made by it, and proposes to conduct it himself. The good already effected will not, however, be lost; a spirit of inquiry has been excited, and who can venture to say

where it will end? Under the auspices of Mr. Brewer,\* it was ever foremost in pointing out errors in conduct, and in stirring up its readers to every benevolent or public-spirited undertaking; and much of this spirit we may hope will descend to his successor.

Among the public institutions which deserve to be pointed out for their novelty in Asia, is a public library and reading-room, established by several English and American gentlemen. It is as yet upon a small scale, but it may be the germ of a noble institution. Gratuitous access is afforded to any stranger who is introduced by a member.

The Cassino is an institution of a different nature. It contains within its walls a large ball-room, a billiard-room, and an apartment neatly fitted up as a reading-room, although it contained only a few old files of Galignani, and the *Paris Journal de Commerce*. Any respectable stranger may be introduced by a member, and is presented with a cup of coffee, but all other refreshments must be paid for. It is a well-regulated institution, and requires only a library to be attached to it to render it a greater ornament to the city, and an honour to those public-spirited individuals who first projected it. Upon making this suggestion to one of the members, I was informed that the experiment had been made, and failed for the following reason. Such is the dread entertained in this country of the plague, and so frequent is its recurrence, that no one could be found hardy enough even to touch a book belonging to a public library, and if by any chance a member should have the plague

\* The efforts of the physicians at Smyrna during the fearful season of cholera were nobly seconded by many of the foreign missionaries. Among these I heard the labours of Mr. Brewer everywhere spoken of in terms of admiration. Furnished with the requisite remedies, he scoured every lane and alley, proclaiming his benevolent intentions, and distributing even food to the needy. Let history, when it repeats the story of the good Bishop of Marseilles,—who, after all, was merely a soldier at his post,—also record the benevolence and the proud contempt of danger and of death evinced by an American stranger within the pestilential walls of Smyrna.

after having used one of the books, the whole library would be compelled to undergo the destructive process of purification. A library thus neglected, or thus purified, would of course soon perish.

I have already alluded to the kingly authority usurped by the foreign consuls in this place, and I was desirous of learning what was the distinctive mark of the first class of their subjects. There is so much genuine good-feeling existing among all the European merchants here, and they are all so intimately connected by blood and marriage, that I thought such distinctions impossible; but a visit to the Cassino has enlightened me on this subject. By the rules of this club, no member or visiter is allowed to wear any thing but a hat, nor can a captain of a merchant vessel, or a person engaged in retail trade, or a native-born Smyrniote, unless of foreign parents, or under foreign protection, be admitted as members or visitors. The absurdity of some of these rules was pointedly reprobated by one of the members, who mentioned that a friend of his had been in Smyrna the preceding year as a supercargo, and was admitted to the privileges of the Cassino. He was now there as the commander of his own vessel, and was refused admission.

Any club or society have a right to determine with whom they are willing to associate, but they should be careful lest they excite censure or ridicule, by placing their exclusive principle upon absurd grounds. One is reminded of the fashionable standard adopted some years ago in New-York, when the merchant of Broadway was placed below him of Pearl-street, and the latter again was outranked by the money-dealer of Wall-street. If I recollect aright, it was Salmagundi who put the matter to rest, by inquiring whether true nobility of soul or high literary attainments were necessarily connected with  $\frac{1}{4}$  per cent. commissions; and by gravely asking the difference between the intellectual attainments or good-breeding of him who sold tape by the piece, and him who sold it by the yard.

Notwithstanding these odd regulations, the Cassino is a noble institution, and merits from the stranger a passing tribute of praise.

The unsettled state of many of the countries bordering upon the Mediterranean renders it necessary for most of the European nations to keep up a large naval force in these seas. Smyrna is of course a convenient harbour, and almost every day witnesses the arrival and departure of some foreign man-of-war. To-day a large Austrian frigate, the *Guerrero*, came in, and excited much amusement by her unseamanlike and lubberly manœuvres. She is commanded by Accourti, a man who, according to the Philhellenes, has rendered himself infamous by his frequent arbitrary infractions of the laws of nations, and for the decided stand which he took against the Greeks during their last struggle for freedom. Without joining in this furious denunciation, he will not readily be forgiven by the man of taste for permitting his officers to deface the temple of Sunium.

While looking at the manœuvres of this frigate, we saw an American brig endeavouring to get out, but which went ashore on the sand-spit a few miles below the city. This is not an uncommon occurrence, and it is said happens much oftener to outward-bound vessels than to those coming into the harbour. It was explained upon the principle that the master of a vessel is always more anxious and careful upon entering a harbour than upon leaving it.

The fresh inbat, or sea-breeze, tempted me with its coolness to venture forth into the bay, and I took the opportunity of visiting two men-of-war which had arrived within a few days. The *Palinure* is a stout French brig-of-war of twenty-two guns, and the appearance of this vessel and crew conveyed a favourable idea of her discipline. Her guns were upon slides, and on the non-recoil principle. She is far superior in tonnage to an English sloop-of-war,

the *Raleigh*, which lies at a short distance from her. This latter vessel is also in excellent order, and mounts twenty-four guns, and from her rate is commanded by a post-captain, although in the event of a contest with her neighbour she ought to be captured by her with ease.

The officers were extremely civil, and made some allusions to her plain appearance, contrasted with the elegance of American men-of-war. They seemed, however, to think, that for service their own craft would be quite as likely to do her duty as our more tastefully-decorated vessels. The arrangements of her ward-room and cabin were far superior in convenience to any thing similar I had ever seen.

There are no American men-of-war here, nor have any been here for some time. In fact, smaller vessels are more required than unwieldy frigates and sloops. The Austrians effectually protect their commerce by a class of small schooners, and our merchants here state that our mercantile interests were better protected by the little *Porpoise*, than by all the squadrons which have been from time to time sent to the Mediterranean.

## APPENDIX.

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A.—Page 5.

### *Currents of the Straits of Gibraltar.*

These currents have excited much speculation among the curious, and philosophers have endeavoured to explain why the Mediterranean should require such a continual and immense supply from the Atlantic. This current has a medium velocity, according to some writers, of eleven miles in twenty-four hours. It is urged by some, that evaporation goes on with so much rapidity in the Mediterranean, as to require this supply; but as a necessary consequence, the waters of this sea must be daily becoming saltier and saltier. According to Marcet, in the *Philosophical Transactions* for 1819, there was no difference in the saltness of the water at the surface, and at the depth of 1500 feet. Another eminent English philosopher, Woolaston, asserts that water taken up from a depth of 4000 feet, contained more than four times the usual quantity of saline matter. Here, then, we have two directly opposed facts from persons equally competent to judge, but something must be allowed for the sources of error in such analysis, and for the various accidents which may prevent the experiment from being unimpeachable.

The clever author of the *Principles of Geology* gets rid of all the superfluous salt which must be accumulated upon the principle of evaporation, by supposing that "in the enormous depths of the central parts of this sea, it is precipitated on the grandest scale in continuous masses of pure rock salt, extending perhaps hundreds of miles." It may, however, be questioned whether precipitation can take place, unless the whole mass has reached the point of saturation. The Mediterranean has been sounded at a depth of more than a mile, where there was a great probability of touching this salt "extending perhaps hundreds of miles," and yet nothing was brought up but mud, sand, and shells.

If, then, the Mediterranean be not saltier than the ocean, what becomes of all the water which is continually pouring into it. It has been attempted to be proved that there is a counter-current setting out, which balances nearly or quite that pouring into the straits; and upon the assumption that it is saltier beneath, it has been stated that an under current of the same depth



and breadth with that above, need only move with one-quarter of the velocity of the upper current, to carry out as much salt as was brought in. The idea of a counter-current is mainly supported upon a vague story of a ship which is reported to have foundered in the straits, and was afterward cast ashore two or three miles to the westward of the place where she sunk. This marvellous submarine voyage is entirely destitute of foundation. It rests upon the vague authority of a person at Valencia, who said he had heard of such a report, and may be classed with the fabulous legend which certifies to the existence of a communication under the straits between Gibraltar and Africa. It has also been assumed that the revolution of the earth on its axis must cause a counter-current beneath from east to west. The ingenious author of this suggestion should have explained why the revolution of the earth on its axis does not also affect the surface. Lastly, an argument *ex necessitate* is employed. An immense body of water is continually discharged into the Mediterranean from the Black Sea, which must perforce find its way into the Atlantic.

Among the many hypotheses which have been proposed to account for this imaginary supply, few of their authors appear to have examined all the facts of the case. The Mediterranean receives the fresh-water drainage of a large portion of the southern part of Europe from Spain to the Crimea, and no inconsiderable portion of Asia and Africa. This being specifically lighter than the salt-water, floats above, or at least combines near the surface with a small quantity of sea-water, and, being the first evaporated, leaves the water in statu quo as far as regards its saline contents. Much of the salt-water may be fairly supposed to be lost by soakage, along the arid sands of Africa; and no small quantity may be conceived to be necessary for the consumption required by the volcanoes along this sea. Stromboli is perpetually active, and the others, when in activity, discharge immense quantities of aqueous vapour.

But, when we carefully examine into the facts respecting the current of the straits, we shall probably find that the amount of water actually conveyed into the Mediterranean is less considerable than is generally supposed. Although the current usually flows from the Atlantic, yet this does not invariably happen; and instances are well known in which the current, after heavy easterly winds, has been known to flow into the Atlantic. If we take into account, also, the broad eddies on each side of the current which carry back the waters into the Atlantic, and which may be traced for many miles along the shores of the strait, we shall find the breadth of the main channel considerably reduced in its dimensions, and consequently in the volume of water conveyed into the Mediterranean. These eddies are so extensive, that a vessel, by taking advantage of them, has been known to beat through the straits in the teeth of a westerly gale. This has been done by a merchant brig belonging to New-York, the *Henry Eckford*, and by others mentioned in the *Navigator's Guide*.

The excellent chart of the straits published by a Spanish pilot, Ignatius Reiner, also establishes the fact that the current varies very much at different times in its velocity, and of course in the quantity of water which is brought from the Atlantic.

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B.—Page 22.

THE appearance of such a remarkable phenomenon as the formation of a new island naturally recalls to mind similar occurrences near the coast of St. Michaels, one of the Azores Islands. According to an old traveller, "the land in some places rose up, and some hills were levelled with the sea; and such thunder and noise were heard as if all the devils in hell had been assembled there." Various islands sprung up in the years 1638, 1720, and, within our own days, in 1811.

The Mediterranean has been from the remotest times the scene of volcanic disturbances, and offers at the present day examples of every variety, from the active volcano to the quiet solfa-terra. Stromboli, the perpetual lighthouse of the Eolian Seas, is the only well-authenticated specimen on record of a volcano in a phase of permanent eruption; while Vesuvius and Etna are in phases of moderate activity of frequent occurrence. These belong to the great division of subaerial volcanoes: the other division of subaqueous volcanoes are more rare; but history records the former existence of several in the Mediterranean. Pliny relates that in 237 B. C., at the island *Santon*, formerly called *Thera*, a violent earthquake entirely separated from it what is now known by the name of *Therasia*. Forty years afterward (197, B. C.), after many violent earthquakes, a new island sprung up between *Thera* and *Therasia*, to which was given the name of *Hiera*, most probably in allusion to its supposed sacred origin: 243 years after this period (A. D. 46) a new island, *Thia*, appeared in the vicinity, but within a short period it entirely disappeared. Terrific volcanic disturbances occurred in the same place in the years 713 and 1427, but unaccompanied by the appearance of any new island until 1573 (an interval of more than 1500 years), when, after repeated earthquakes and explosions, the island now called Little Cammeni made its appearance. The remains of the six craters, which furnished the materials for this island, are still to be seen. The last eruption occurred in 1707; of which a faithful and animated account is given in the *Missions du Levant*, by an eyewitness. This eruption was followed by the appearance of a *new island*, between the Great and Little Cammeni. We are thus presented with five well-authenticated examples of islands formed in the Mediterranean by volcanic agency; and the phe-

nomena we have just witnessed accompanied the elevation of a sixth island in a new and far distant quarter. An examination of the regions not far removed from the new island will furnish us with evidences of formations of volcanic origin. We pass over the obvious instances of Gibraltar Bay and Rock of Columbretes, on the coast of Valencia, as shown in the Journal of the Royal Geographical Society, and of Deception, one of the New South Shetlands, in the same volume.

On the southern coast of Sicily we shall find islands of volcanic origin, although much larger than the one under consideration. The island of Pantelleria, which is about thirty-five miles in circumference, is only distant from the new island twenty or thirty miles. Dolomieu, who visited it fifty years ago, pronounces it to be actively volcanic, and of a late period. In the chief crater of this island he found a large pool of water, so hot, that in his time it was resorted to by all the islanders for washing and other domestic purposes. The whole island is composed of volcanic slags, ashes, and cinders. The new island lies in a N. E. and S. W. direction, between this and Sciacca, and the earthquakes which preceded its apparition were precisely in this direction.

In reflecting upon the causes operating on so large a scale, it is difficult to withhold our assent from the conclusions adopted by modern geologists respecting the influence of volcanic agencies. If volcanoes are capable of shaking vast continents to their very centre, of communicating their impulse several thousands of miles; and, as in the cases just cited, of elevating mountains from the bottom of the sea, what limits can we assign to their power? If a volcano can elevate, as we have seen within our own times in the case of Sabrina, an island two miles in circumference, and nearly 1000 feet high, with a proportionable base, from the bottom of the sea, why may it not have elevated still higher and more extensive islands? The existence of numerous volcanic islands among the Antilles and in the Pacific Ocean sufficiently attest the extent of this agency; and Teneriffe, whose total elevation must exceed 10,000 feet, bears witness to the stupendous scale of these operations.

When we take into view the circumstance that this region is the peculiar seat of volcanic agencies, it is difficult to resist the belief that not only the islands of Pantelleria, Maretimo, Malta, &c., but even Sicily itself has been elevated by the operation of these causes.

Mount Etna, which consists in fact of a congeries of volcanic cones, covers a base which is generally computed to be 120 miles in circumference, or covering nearly one half of the island of Sicily.

Following up the train of ideas naturally suggested by the consideration of such an event, we are led to conjecture what may have been the state of things at a period beyond history or tradition. When we cast our eyes over the chart of this sea we are presented with the following facts:—From Sicily on one side and Africa on the other there extend large banks, over which

there is only from twenty to seventy fathoms water, leaving a deep channel between them of about eighteen miles in breadth, and nowhere exceeding 245 fathoms. In these banks are numerous shoals, reefs, and rocks, the summits of submarine mountains. Near the edge of this bank, in ninety fathoms water, arose the new volcanic island. If we now draw a line, somewhat flexed, across from Cape Farina, in Africa, to the most westerly part of Sicily, we shall find that in all this distance of 120 miles there is not more than 80 fathoms: indeed, two points along this line—the Esquerques and Keith's reef—appear above the water. It appears, then, that the bed of the Mediterranean consists at present of two distinct basins, which are separated from each other by a chain of rocks, more than 480 feet deep in some places, while in others they rise to the surface of the water. The edge of the eastern basin rises at the Dardanelles to within 180 feet, and the western basin rises at Gibraltar to within 1300 feet of the surface. The deepest part of either basin hitherto ascertained does not exceed 6000 feet. May not the Mediterranean, then, have been divided into two distinct and separate inland seas, which were united into one by a catastrophe similar to that which we have been examining? Was this coeval with, or posterior to, the disruption of the Atlantic barrier at Gibraltar? Would the elevation of one part be necessarily accompanied by the depression of another portion of this rocky barrier? Has the insetting current from the Atlantic any connexion with those perpetual and occasional volcanoes which discharge such quantities of aqueous vapour?

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E.—Page 145.

### BRIEF VOCABULARY.

#### EXCLAMATIONS.

Heavens!—Mashallah!	The work of God.	Never mind!—Zarrar yoke!
Please God!—Inshallah!		Come along!—Booyooroon!
So be it!—Allah kayrim!	God is merciful!	Look there!—Bak oraiyah!
Bravo!—Ahfareim!		Push on!—Highder!
Nonsense!—Bosh!		We shall see!—Baccalum!
What a pity!—Yahzekder!		My friend, lamb, or soul!—Djanim, coozoom, doast!

#### CONVENTIONAL PHRASES.

How do you do, sir?—Sabah hyillah;	I have heard of nothing—Beezahay or, Kayfe nees ay me effendim.	eeshit may dim.
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- Good-day—Sabah ishare eefeeniz hyro soon.  
 Very well, I thank you—Elham dooroolah.  
 You are welcome—Hoasch gheldin.  
 Adieu—Alasmahladik. I recommend you to God—Allah bah sim ah lah dik.  
 A pleasant journey t'ye—Oorowlah, oorowlah.  
 What's the news?—Hahvah dee see—miss varder?
- Good-by—Hoasch jakal.  
 May it do you good?—Ahfyet lair—olsoon effendim.  
 Thank you—Kair aymollah. After taking any refreshment.  
 Beg pardon, sir?—Ahfidare sin effendim.  
 Thank you, sir—Ahvallah effendim.  
 Will you take a pipe?—Chibook ees-  
 taresin?  
 Thank you, I don't smoke—Chibook  
 itch mem.

## LANGUAGE.

- Do you speak Turkish?—Toorcheh lacedri dare me sum?  
 No, sir, I only speak English—Eng-  
 heelisseh beeleermissen.  
 No, sir—Highee effendim;—Yes—  
 Yoke; evett bellee.  
 The Turkish language is not difficult  
 —Toorcheh lissan zoredayil.  
 I don't know—Bilmem.
- I don't understand—Ongnakmem.  
 I understand you—Beeleerim.  
 Do you understand?—Ongnadunn-  
 may?  
 Only a few words—Beer eekee la-  
 credi.  
 Why don't you learn French?—  
 Nitchin aiooran mayore siniz Fran-  
 ciseh?

## IN A BOAT.

- I want to go to Constantinople—Is-  
 tairim Stambolda ghit may yeh.  
 How far is it to Constantinople?—  
 Boordan katzaater Stambolda?  
 How much?—Kaatch?  
 Very well—Pek ayee.  
 Push on my friend—Heider djannim.  
 Make haste—Chapook! tezz.  
 What's your name?—Naydir say-  
 neen ah deen?  
 My name is Mustapha—Baynim ah  
 deen Mustapha.  
 Make sail—Yelkan atch.  
 The wind is strong—Roosgarr ya  
 oose.  
 Keep out of our way!—Atch! atch-  
 mah yalnoose.  
 Stop there—Dure boordah.  
 Look out!—Bak!
- Pull (rope)!—Check!  
 Where are you going?—Narayeh  
 gheedaresin?  
 I want to board that vessel—Shoo  
 gamee eeare gheday jayeim.  
 Where is she from?—Neriden gay-  
 lee yore?  
 Where bound?—Nerayay gheday  
 ore?  
 What is her cargo?—Yookoo nay  
 dir?  
 What nation?—Nay meelett?  
 How many is her crew?—Katch  
 adam var?  
 How long is the passage to Erze-  
 room?—Katch guin lazum ghit-  
 mek itchin Erzerumeh?  
 Is her cabin large?—Camarahsuh  
 booyookme?

Is that vessel armed ?—Doan an mish ter ? Who owns it ?—Kim een deer ?  
 Does she sail fast ?—Chapook ghidare ? Who is he ?—Kim deer shoo ?  
 How many knots ?—Nekardar sahat tah ? What is his name ?—Nahel say len-  
 She seems a dull sailer ?—Ahghur ghiday yore ? eer ?  
 What is she worth ?—Pahahseh nay dir ? Is he a soldier ?—Asker mi deer ?  
 Whose palace is that ?—Kim shoo serai ? He is a sailor—Tyfah derr.  
 What rank ?—Nay haldeh deer ?  
 How much must I pay ?—Neh vare eh jay im ?  
 Are you satisfied ?—Hoashnoot moos-  
 hoonoos ?

## MAKING PURCHASES.

Have you any ?—Siday varmeder ? — cheaper ?— — efvancee ?  
 How much is it ?—Kaatch ? — smaller ?— — kootchook ?  
 As much as you please—Nekidair yustairsein. — handsomer ?— — guzalee ?  
 How much altogether ?—Nekardar-der epsi. No, sir, I have none—Hyer ! yokeder effendim.  
 — a piece ?—Kaach ah-raarder ? What is the lowest price ?—Ahzl pahahzeh kaatcharder ?  
 It is too much—Chokeder. Send them to my house—Yollah yumuz ontareh eveemeh.  
 It's enough—Ellvayreer. What do you call this ?—Boo noonah daynay ?  
 I will give—Bairay im. What will you have ?—Nay eestare sin ?  
 How ; what ?—Nasl ?  
 Have you any larger ?—Dahah booyook varmedeh sisder ?  
 — finer ?— — injesee ?  
 — ehjoy im ?

## TRAVELLING.

Have you horses to hire ?—Keerayah varayjek bay eegeer layrin var-meh ? Is the road good ?—Yole larr guzel me dir ?  
 I want two—Istairim eekes tahneh. Are there any robbers ?—Hurrzuz yoke me der ?  
 I shall return to-night—Boo aksham donerim. Who built that house ?—Kim yapdeh boo serai ?  
 — to-morrow—Boo yar-run donerim. — bridge ?— — koerpruhyoo ?  
 I shall want a guide—Istairim beer sooroorgeh. What is planted here ?—Neh ekmish-lare boorayugh ?  
 I wish to go now—Istairim gheetmek achimdi. How many crops a year ?—Nekardar mahzul beer sennedeh ?  
 Immediately—Ahneedeh. What is the land worth ?—Naydir boo toprah vun day vay res ?

- In an hour at farthest—Beer sahat dan yahot beerah soreah.  
 Shall I pay now?—Vairmaylee meeyim schimdi?  
 Very well then, to-morrow—Pekayee, yarunn.  
 Does the guide know the road?—Sooroorgeh beeleerimee yohlulh?  
 He must stop when I wish to say any thing—Lahzumder kee doorsoon sorahrum hatchan beer shay.  
 Give me a gentle horse—Vair banna beer mahzum at.  
 — a spirited one— atashay.  
 This one is lame—Boo topal der.  
 — lazy— Boo tenbell der.  
 Give me a good saddle—Vair banna beer arie ehyair.  
 Send them to my house—Yollah yuhnuz ontareh eveemeh.  
 I live near the mosque—Aeeleh neerim beer djammei nin yahundah.  
 Inquire for the American—Amelikan dayee sorr.  
 Come, be quick about it—Highder, davran undeh.  
 What is to be seen there?—Gurayjeek nay varoondah?  
 What is there?—Nay varoondah?
- Look there—Bak ohreiyah.  
 I am not afraid—Koerp mam.  
 I am armed—Nay vahzeel oldum.  
 Can I enter here?—Gheeray beleerim iz.  
 How far is it to?—Oosak laygheh nekadairder?  
 I am tired—Yo rool dum.  
 I am sleepy—Ooyook layurumm.  
 Make a fire—Ahtaishshee ak.  
 Give me some water—Soo vair banna.  
 Can you give me a bed?—Yahtar ghun varmedeh banna?  
 Will you take a pipe?—Chibook itch-airim iniz?  
 Yes, sir—Evelt effendim.  
 It makes me sick—Hahz ip maim.  
 I never smoke—Chibook itch mem.  
 Have you any tobacco?—Tootoon varmeh?  
 What is this called?—Boo noon ah-dainay?  
 Has he come?—Ghell dee?  
 Come here—Ghell.  
 Get away—Gheet! sikteer! jayh-ennam ol!  
 I am ill—Hasstai yum.  
 I was ill—Hasstai yehdum.

## MISCELLANEOUS.

- Who are you?—Kim siniz siz?  
 I am a physician—Haikim im.  
 I am a sailor—Tyfah im.  
 I am not sure—Ameen day eelim.  
 I will return presently—Beeraz dan donerim.
- Where can I find a hatter?—Beers-hap kadgeh neridi boolah beleerim?  
 Does he live far from this?—Boondan oosak mi deer?  
 How is your mother?—Validay naal der?

## PRESENT.

- I have paper—Kyat dum var.  
 He has ink—Muraykay bee var.  
 We have a penknife—Kalemterashi muz var.
- You have pens—Kalemlair iniz var.  
 They have oranges—Portukal larreh var.

## IMPERFECT.

I had pears—Armoodlair um var.	You had plums—Ereeklair in iz vare-
He had apples—Elmahlairer vare-	deh.
We had cherries—Keerahsclair umuz	They had lemons—Limmonlarr eh
varedeh.	varedeh.

## FUTURE.

I shall have friends—Doast aiden-	You shall have strawberries—Fraole-
ayjay im.	larnuz olajak.
He ——— enemies—Doochmanlar	They ——— almonds—Bademlai-
aidenayjek.	ree olajak.
We ——— gooseberries—Frain-	
oozmooz olajak.	
What countryman are you?—Han-	Next week—Gaylayjek haftah.
geh memlay kettan sin?	Next month—Gaylayjek eye.
I am from the New World—Yenye	This month—Boo eye.
doonyee dan.	Next year—Gaylayjek yeel.
Where are you going?—Narayyeh	Is there any plague?—Oomoorjak
/ ghedairsin.	varmeder?
I am going to New-York—Nooyorka	There are a few cases—Beer eekee
gheday jay im.	zoohoorat varder.
When are you going?—Nasehman	That lady is handsome—Boo han-
nay wakot?	num pek guzell.

1, beer	40, keerk
2, eekee	41, keerk beer, &c.
3, ooch	50, ellay
4, dorrt	51, ellay beer, &c.
5, baysh	60, altay mayfh
6, ahltay	70, eeyuaitay miss
7, yeeaidlee	80, seksann
8, say keesse	90, doaxann
9, dough kooso	100, yoos
10, own	101, yoos beer
11, own beer	120, yoos yirmih
12, own eekee	200, eekee yoos
13, own ooch, &c.	300, ooch yoos
20, yeermih	400, dorrt yoos
21, yeermih beer, &c.	500, baysh yoos
30, owetoose	600, ahltay yoos
31, owetoose beer, &c.	1000, been



1500, been baysh yoos	100,000, yoos been
2000, eekee been	200,000, eekee yoos been
10,000, own been	1,000,000, beer milleeyon.
20,000, yirmih been	

## DAYS OF THE WEEK.

Friday, Joomah	Tuesday, Sallay
Saturday, Joomah airtchsee	Wednesday, Charchambee
Sunday, Pahzarr	Thursday, Pairshambay.
Monday, Pahzar airtchsee	

## MONTHS.

January, Yaynarr	July, Taymoose
February, Shoobat	August, Ab
March, Mart	September, Aylool.
April, Neesan	October, Tayshreenee ayvail
May, Ahighar	November, Tayshreene sahnee
June, Hahzeeran	December, Kiahnoonee ayvail.

*Note.*—It is to be remarked that these are not the names of the Mohammedan months, but are understood by them as equivalent to our months. Their computation of time is lunar, and their year consequently contains but 354 days 8 hours 48' 33"; so that in 33 years their computation differs from ours one year 4 days 18 hours and 29'. They date from the Hegira, or flight of Mohammed, which took place on the 15th of July of the year 622 of the Christian era. This therefore is the 1st of the month Mekharrem, which contains 30 days. The following is the order of the Mohammedan months.

Mekharrem - - - 30 days	Redzeb - - - - 30 days
Saffair - - - - 29	Sabann - - - - 29
Rebiool evvel - - 30	Ramazan - - - - 30
—— akheer - 29	Seval - - - - 29
Jaymasiool evvel - 30	Zilkaday - - - - 30
—— akher - 29	Zilkidzay - - - - 29

From this computation the first day of the new year of 1249 corresponds to the 7th of May, 1833, and the year 1250 commences on the 26th of April, 1834.

Morning, Sabah	Evening, Aksham
Noon, Oieelann	Night, Ghayjeh
Afternoon, ikindi	To-day, Boo ghioon
Yesterday, doon	To-morrow, ee arrunn.

## SEASONS.

Summer, Yaz	Spring, Mahees
Winter, Kish	Autumn, Kasemm.

## WINDS, &amp;c.

North, Poeras	Rain, Yamoor
South, Loadose	Hail, Doloo
East, Goondogrosoo	Snow, Karr
West, Goonbattosay	Storm, Boarah.

## EATABLES, &amp;c.

Bread, Ekmeek	Grapes, Oozoom
Meat, Ett	Salt, Tooz
Wine, Sharapp	Milk, Soot
Tobacco, Tootoon	Mutton, Koyoonetee
Snuff, Enfyeh	Vinegar, Seerkay
Water, Soo	Butter, Teray yawgeh
Fowls, Tahook	Soap, Sabonn
Fish, Bahlook	Cheese, Paineer
Eggs, Yoomoortah	Breakfast, Kahwolteh
Olives, Zaytin	Dinner, Neilan yaymehee
Oil, Zaytin yaugeh	Supper, Akshanteh ahmeh.
Pepper, Baybare	

## ANIMALS.

Dog, Kerpek	Hog, Doughmoose
Horse, At	Cow, Eeneck
Ox, Aikeese	Calf, Dannah
Fowls, Kanatleh hievann	Bird, Koosh
Ass, Essheck	Camel, Dayvay
Fox, Tilkee	Wolf, Koort
Rabbit, Tasshann	Quail, Bulderjane
Cat, Kaydeo	Oysters, Istridea
Leeches, Soolook	Crabs, Stakose.

## VEGETABLES, PLANTS.

Apple, Elmah	Melon (musk), Karpoose
Cabbage, Lahannah	— (water), Kahvoon
Cherries, Keerahse	Olives, Zaytin
Chestnut, Kestannay	Onions, Sohrrann
Figs, Injeer	Orange, Limon Portugal
Filberts, Foondook	Peaches, Chestallay
Fire-wood, Owe doon	Pear, Armoood
Garlic, Sarmnoosak	Potatoes, Yair ellmahsuh
Grapes, Oozoom	Quince, Aieevah
Lemon, Limonn	Tree, Agadg.

## MINERALS, GEMS.

Brass, Crimehseh backerr	Gold, Oltoon
Charcoal, Kehmure	Iron, Daymeer
Coal, Mahden kehmore	Lead, Koorshoor
Coral, Mairjon	Pearls, Injeh
Copper, Bankerr	Silver, Gumushe
Diamonds, Elmaz	Sulphur, Kuhkoort.

## DRESS.

Boots, Izmeh	Shoes, Hoondoorah
Cloak, Capoot	Socks, Choral
Coat, Espop	Stockings, Cabzah
Gloves, Eldehvan,	Silk, Eepek
Handkerchiefs, Yahlek	Suspenders, Askeh
Hat, Shapkeh	Trousers, Chashkeer
Pantaloons, Pantalonn	Vest, Yaylak
Shirts, Gheumlek	Veil, Yashmack.

## TRADES AND OCCUPATIONS.

Barber, Bairbair	Hatter, Shapkeigh
Blacksmith, Nalbant	Locksmith, Chilingeerh
Brassfounder, Duekmaygee	Shoemaker, Sakhtyan
Carpenter, Doorjair	Tailor, Tairzeeh
Shipcarpenter, Calfah,	Tanner, Tahbak
Cooper, Teknay	Washerwoman, Chahmasherjuh karerr

## KINDRED.

Father, Baba, Paydair	Aunt, Taieeseh
Mother, Valideh, Annah	Husband, Kodejah, qu ? <i>Codger</i>
Brother, Kardash	Wife, Karreh
Sister, Kiskardash	Son, Evlak
Uncle, Daheer	Daughter, Kuz.

## PARTS OF THE BODY.

Body, Vujoot	Leg, Bahlderh
Ear, Coolak	Lips, Doodak
Eye, Gueuse	Lungs, Akjeegair
Finger, Parmak	Mouth, Aghz
Foot, Aiyak	Neck, Boyoon
Hand, Ell	Nose, Boornoo
Head, Bash	Teeth, Dish
Heel, Topook	Thigh, Boot
Knees, Deez	Tongue, Dil.

## DISEASES.

Cholera, Heezeh	Headache, Bash arresch
A cold, Nayvahst	Toothache, Dish arresch
Fever, Harrarit	Breastache, Yurarg arresch
—— intermitting, Hammah	Ophthalmia, Guze arresch
—— bilious, Zafraleh immah	Plague, Oomoorjak
Gout, Neekriss	Rheumatism, Medjayi mehfahel

## MISCELLANEOUS NOUNS.

Aqueduct, Sooyolduh	Paper, Kahat
Barracks, Kushlah	Pen, Kalemam
Book, Kitab	Privy, Maimshah
Bricks, Toolah	Present, Bakshish
Compass, Poozoolah	A noble present, Paishkaish
Devil, Shaytan	River, Ermak
Fire, Ahtesh	Rope, Eep
Fork, Chattal	Sea, Dainiz
Garden, Bahdjeh	Ship, Gaymy
House, Ev	—— of war, Jink gaymeesee
Ink, Muray kep	Something, Beershay
Knife, Poochak	Spoon, Cashuk
Merchant vessel, Bazarjam gaimery	Steamboat, Chark gaymeesee
Mosque, Djammi	Towel, Paysbheer
Mountain, Dahjeh	Trunk, Sanduck
Manufactory, Kerk hannah	Valley, Dairay
Nothing, Eek	Watch, Sahat
Nothing at all, Asselah	

## ADJECTIVES.

Good, Ai ee	Red, Kermuzz
Bad, Fainah	Green, Yayshil
Large, Booyook	Yellow, Sarreh
Small, Kootchook	Blue, Mahoe
Little, Oofak	Brown, Essmare
High, Oosek	Cold, So ook
Low, Alchack	Hot, Serjak
Hard, Sert	Old, Eaki
Soft, Yoomoorshak	New, Yayni
Heavy, Aghuer	Sweet, Tatlay
Light, Hahfeef	Sour, Ekshee
Strong, Yacoe	Handsome, Guzell
Weak, Zai if	Ugly, De eer, Cheekin
Black, Seeyah	Dear, Papalay
White, Akh. Bayaz	Cheap, Oojooz

Rich, Zainghin	Ignorant, Eelimziz
Poor, Fakeer	Brave, Eeyeet
Few, Az	Malicious, Shirrett
Many, Chokevarrun	Sincere, Sahduk
Modest and polite, Aideplee	Cunning, Feetneh
Impudent, Ahmakh	Envious, Kishganeh.
Wise, Eelimdar	

## VERBS.

To ask,	Seevaleetmek	To feel,	Doughkamak
bleed,	Kanolmak	forget,	Oonootmak
boast,	Maiteetmek	forgive,	Afeetmek
bring,	Guiturmak	give,	Vairmak
buy,	Sattenalmak	imitate,	Banezetmek
call,	Chahguerimak	sell,	Sattmak
dance,	Chora oieenamak	sing,	Okoomak
decide,	Kararveermek	teach,	Ueretmek.
eat,	Yaymek		

## F.—Page 153.

SUBSTANCE of the *Resallay*, or treatise drawn up by a committee of the Turkish physicians of Constantinople, under the presidency of Behjet Molah, the Haykimbash, or chief physician of the seraglio, and published by order of Sultan Mahmoud, August 1, 1831 :—

It commences with a few general remarks upon the nature of Cholera, and after stating that it does not seem to be as formidable here as in other places (thanks be to God), the necessity for precautionary measures is strongly urged previous to its appearance; and when it actually appears, it must be met by the most vigorous and active treatment. And every true Moslem is called upon, not only by the sacred law, but as a matter of common prudence, to resort to those means pointed out to cure the disease. A short introduction gives the history of the disease with a few brief remarks upon its nature. It began in 1813, along the rivers of India, and extending through Persia, entered Europe by Russia. It has been observed to be particularly fatal in low places along the banks of fresh-water streams, and at a distance from the sea. On the other hand, where it breaks out on an island or on

the sea-shore, it can scarcely be called contagious, and assumes a very mild form. This disease is called by the Arabians *heevah*, or black sickness. Such a quick killing disease was never known before, not even in the books of physicians. It originates from bile, which is burnt blood, and this produces vomiting and diarrhoea.

*Symptoms.* Without any previous warning, the patient drops as if apoplectic. The extremities soon become cold, and this extends towards the body. There is a sense of weight and pain in the region of the stomach, or on both sides. As soon as this pain sets in, the face and extremities become livid; then follows vomiting of black putrid matter, accompanied by violent and frequent diarrhoea. The patient dies generally in less than three hours. These symptoms vary, of course, in different individuals, and do not always observe the same order. It is often a matter of difficulty to obtain blood, and hence it is requisite to give a dose of spirits of nannay, yawgub, oil of peppermint, in a cup of island tea, *salvia officinalis*, or garden sage.

*Precautionary rules.* When a person is attacked, the following things are to be done. Avoid touching him, for this disease is as contagious as plague. Throw all his clothes into water. Put a pot of boiling vinegar into the house, and shut it up for 15 days. If there are other adjoining small houses shut them up likewise, with a previous similar purification. Before entering a house, wash your face with strong aromatic vinegar. Any powerful perfume about the body is also useful. Endeavour to reside in a lofty, well-aired situation. The body should always be kept in a state of gentle perspiration. The feet are particularly to be kept warm, and for this purpose woollen stockings are recommended. The essence of this disease is burnt bile, hence, care must be taken not to excite it by incautious eating and drinking. Those who are the most apprehensive about this disease, will generally escape it, as they are prudent people, and will not neglect the necessary precautions. Avoid taking oil in any shape, as it is very powerful in exciting and burning the bile. Avoid, also, pastry cakes and halvah, a sort of candy composed of oil or butter, resembling our cockininy. According to foreigners, milk and eggs are proscribed, as inviting attacks of this disease. Among fruits, peaches, melons, cucumbers, mahlingham (egg plants), and cabbage are decidedly injurious; apples are not so. With regard to drinks, lemonade is the best, or a few drops of vinegar and water; wine, spirits, brandy, and opium are all equally bad, as they burn the blood and convert it into bile. The best food is rice, soup, fowls, and mutton; pilaf may be eaten, but great attention should be paid to the butter used in it, which should be of the best quality. Before and after meals, a little distilled water, or ten or fifteen drops of Cologne water may be taken in a cup of water or sherbet.

*Medical treatment.* As soon as the attack commences, rub the stomach

and bowels with a flannel dipped in spirits until it swells and becomes red, and the doctor arrives. Then bleed to the extent of 120 drachms, or more, according to the strength of the patient. If the doctor does not arrive in three hours, the patient is lost, therefore, do not wait for his arrival, but bleed. It appears that in this disease the blood retreats to the stomach, making it difficult to obtain blood; hence the necessity above pointed out of exciting the surface of the body as quickly as possible, in order to restore the circulation. To aid this, the patient should take stimulating drinks. When the pain is very acute, apply from twenty to thirty leeches to the stomach, or apply a cataplasm made with strong spirits of the adjah elmah yahghuh (bitter apple?) to the stomach, or red pepper boiled in oil and rubbed over the seat of pain. Internally the patient may take a few drops of peppermint in a cup of sage tea. When the pain abates, let the patient take some soothing mucilaginous drinks, such as marshmallow tea, *papa deeyeh*, &c.

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During my residence in Constantinople, I had but one opportunity of examining, personally, cases of plague, and was then compelled to preserve a religious silence on the subject, or I should have been excluded from all society, and compelled to undergo a long and rigorous quarantine. I had frequently solicited an opportunity of the numerous Frank physicians to witness the disease, but they invariably declared that it was an act of folly on my part, and informed me that when they had reason to suspect one of their own patients, they never repeated the visit. Through the politeness of a Greek physician, I was at length so fortunate as to see two cases. They had been brought into the Greek hospital, and were placed in what are termed probationary wards, until the nature of the disease should have declared itself. These patients were both adults, and presented the ordinary symptoms of inflammatory fever. The skin was hot, pulse quick and full, tongue red, eyes injected, with violent headache and vomiting. As no swelling or pain was present in the armpit or groin, the physician was in doubt whether it was a case of plague. He contented himself with frictions of oil, and the application of a few leeches, with some acidulated drink. Various circumstances prevented me from watching the course of the disease, until three days after, when I found that the characteristic buboes had appeared, and they had both died within forty-eight hours after my visit. From this and other circumstances I am disposed to believe, that in these countries occasional cases of plague occur during the whole year, but that a concurrence of circumstances is necessary to render it a devastating epidemic.

It has been always observed to appear after a dearth of provisions, and

hence a meager diet is considered as one of the chief predisposing causes of this disease. Its attacks are chiefly confined to the poor, and those who live upon a generous diet are seldom the victims. It has been observed that the Turks suffer most in consequence of their inattention to the ordinary rules of self-preservation, their simple fare, and their abstinence from wine. The Greeks suffer less, but still many are carried off in consequence of their severe fasts. "A person," observes the author from whom I have already quoted, "without launching into excess, should not be too scrupulous an observer of the rules of temperance, and the use of spirits is adopted by many as a sure preservative." He adds, that during the plague of Constantinople in 1812, the keepers of wine-shops, although many infected people must have resorted there every day, escaped to a man. In our country the zeal against all liquid stimulants is so great, that no one can venture to recommend them without incurring the public reprobation; and we have known a case where a person actually refused to employ them although strenuously urged by his physician, and "died even as a fool dieth."

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G.—Page 200.

#### A REPORT ON "THE STATE OF TRADE AT SALONICA."

By W. B. LLEWELLYN.

##### *State of Trade in Salonica in 1832.*

THE sales of imports are confined almost exclusively to the Jew buyers, who purchase at long credit, and protracted, though generally sure payment; and give prices eight to twelve per cent. higher than in Constantinople or Smyrna. For colonials, the credit allowed to Bazar dealers is from 31 to 91 days, and sometimes sales in them are made against a bill on Constantinople for 61 to 91 days sight. For manufactures, four to six months' credit is exacted. No exchange for bills on Europe exists at Salonica, and all money as well as bill negotiations are in the hands of the Jew bankers, who employ their surplus capital in purchasing old Turkish or foreign coins, which they forward to their agents at Constantinople, and reimburse themselves afterward by selling their bills at par to those in want of paper to remit. Sometimes these bankers purchase, at their own risk for solvency of the debtors, outstanding Bazar bonds for import sales, at the rate of two per cent. per month for the period the bond may have to run, against drafts on Constantinople at 31 days sight; a sale operation thus effected, would result in an immediate remittance by a one month's bill, at same prices as at Constantinople or Smyrna at credit.

X X X



The export trade belongs exclusively to the Turk and Greek cultivators, who from their indigent circumstances require either advances in making a conditional contract, or take up money at high interest to enable them to prepare their harvests; the parties so advancing or lending having the preference of the different produce as it comes to market, with a deduction for interest on the current prices paid by other purchasers. The only opulent cultivators are five or six beys, or native princes, who produce corn and cotton wool, and do not require advances. It happens, though rarely, that a small barter against produce (with the exception of grain) is made, in taking it at five per cent. advance upon market prices, and by giving in exchange one-third amount in outstanding Bazar bonds, one-third in bills at 31 days sight, and the balance in cash. The Jew bankers never allow disagio on selling their paper, and invariably demand two per cent. discount on purchasing the paper of others; therefore, in giving an order to buy produce, Turkish firman money or Spanish dollars must be sent.

The trade of Salonica, in itself, is considerable as regards the daily wants of its inhabitants, computed at 100,000, viz. Jews 50,000, Turks 30,000, and Greeks, including a few Frank families, 20,000,—all of which, more or less, require supplies in colonials, manufactures, or metals; added to which, the city furnishes a large portion of goods for the extensive fairs of Parlepi in July, of Lucca in November, and of Xeres in February of each year, where all transactions are for cash.

In 1830, the imports were only 3,000,000 piastres, and the exports 500,000. In 1831, the former exceeded 7,000,000, and the latter 1,000,000. In 1832, up to the 30th of June, the custom-house registers showed the imports to have increased to nearly 6,000,000, and the exports to upwards of 1,000,000 piastres.

Supplies in colonials and manufactures have been furnished for the last twenty years through indirect channels, at heavy additional expenses, and with much delay, from Smyrna, Constantinople, Marseilles, Leghorn, Trieste, and Venice. Latterly, as respects manufactures, England and Syria have furnished the greatest part, but colonial produce continues to be received from second and third hands, while it could be imported direct.

The progressively increasing trade of the country in general, particularly as relates to imports, may not, perhaps, be undeserving of consideration at the present period. The United States having great capital, together with extraordinary commercial enterprise, no country could probably employ as well its wealth and industry, in monopolizing that part of the commerce of Salonica as refers to imports in colonials, and cheap white and printed cottons. If the Porte were to do away with its injurious system of throwing every possible difficulty in the way of the needy cultivators, and diminish the heavy taxes imposed upon them, the export trade might be very much extended, considering the vast quantity of fine lowland yet uncultivated, the extraordinary fertility of the soil, the cheapness of manual labour, and

the disposition of the inhabitants to cultivate, if only a little encouraged by exemption from insupportable contributions, so frequently levied by their rapacious and tyrannical Turkish aghas, and other petty governors, who endeavour to enrich themselves at the expense of the necessitous farmer, whose subsistence for himself, family, and labourers depends upon the reduction he may be able to effect in bargaining for the taxes on his produce.

## IMPORT MARKET.

**CORTEX.**—Annual consumption 500 tons. An ordinary clean quality is more current of sale than a better description, the latter seldom finding remunerating terms. The article is always in demand, although the recent fluctuation of it, as well in Turkey as in other places of exportation, does not afford a basis upon which future prices can be founded; they may, however, always be calculated ten per cent. higher than at other Turkish markets, when supplies are regularly furnished.

**SUGAR.**—The annual consumption is,

For fine white Havannah,	-	-	1st	-	-	150 tons.
Yellow and brown,	-	-	2d	-	-	80
Fine white E. I.,	-	-	3d	-	-	120
Yellow brown do.,	-	-	4th	-	-	50

**INDIGO.**—Annual consumption 150 chests. The least demand exists during the winter. A good quality only is current, and the colours prepared are violet and deep blue, light of weight and of large pieces. The stock on hand just now is heavy, and with few exceptions of a very low description, for which no offers whatever are made.

**COCHINEAL.**—Annual consumption thirteen tons; present price \$116 per oke. This article, like indigo, is most in favour during spring, summer, and autumn; and clean black quality is the only description saleable.

**CLOVES.**—Annual consumption five tons; present price \$10½ per oke. Winter and spring are the best periods for receiving this article, which ought to be fresh, and free from dust, in order to command a ready sale.

**PEPPER.**—Annual consumption eleven tons; present price \$4½ per oke, saleable as in the instance of cloves; the berry should be sound and fresh.

**NUTMEGS.**—Annual consumption three tons. Period of sale during winter and spring; should be clean and of sound quality.

**GINGER.**—Annual consumption three tons; present price \$145 per kintal. The quality most preferred is a deep yellow, approaching to orange, and ought to be fresh and free from dust.

**CASSIA LIGNA.**—Annual consumption five tons; present price \$11½ per oke. This article is most liked when packed in small cases, fresh, sound, and free from dust.

**DYE-WOODS.**—Brazil, annual consumption 100 tons.

Logwood,	do.	200 do.
Santa Martha,	do.	50 do.

Present price of Brazil,	-	-	\$250 per kintal.
Logwood,	-	-	42 do.
Santa Martha,	-	-	80 do.

These woods, to find a ready sale, should be fresh and sound, of middling quality, and equal colour. Brazil wood being the most wanted for expensive dying, Santa Martha is not so much in request except when Brazil is scarce.

RUM.—Annual consumption 20,000 gallons.

In order to command the market, rum should be darkly coloured, of a clear bright tint; the only quality liked is New-England, the stronger the better. The preference among the Turks for this spirit may soon considerably increase the quantity now used.

MANUFACTURES.—Annual consumption—

Baftaes, ordinary	-	-	-	5000 pieces	12 yds. by 4-4
Calicoes low	-	-	-	8000 "	18 " 5-4
Humhums	-	-	-	1000 "	12½ " 6-4
Long cloths, brown	-	-	-	10,000 "	40 " 5-4
Do. glazed white, ordinary	-	-	-	5000 "	40 " 5-4
Present prices for the Baftaes	-	-	-	\$18 piece.	
Calicoes	-	-	-	25 do.	
Humhums	-	-	-	40 do.	
Long cloths, brown	-	-	-	75 do.	
Do. glazed white	-	-	-	65 do.	

The demand for these articles is steady, particularly for baftaes, low cheap calicoes, brown long cloths, and white glazed do.; and the consumption of them likely to increase considerably in consequence of their being perfectly adapted for the wants of the place.

#### EXPORT MARKET.

SHEEP'S WOOL.—Annual average produce 600 to 700 tons, price first cost in 1831, \$272 per oke.

The season for receiving commences in April. In the months of November, December, and January, the shepherds bring their flocks from the mountains to feed in the plains near the town, and then make contracts with purchasers, who advance them from 25 to 30 per cent. upon the probable quantity likely to be produced. Of late, the prices offered by the agents of the Turkish government have been so very low, that the shepherds, finding a better market elsewhere, do not so frequently appear in the vicinity of Salonica. Last year they were forced to sell their fleeces at sixty paras the oke to government, while merchants would have given ninety. The present year eighty paras were given by the Turkish agent, although purchasers would have readily paid 100. These arbitrary measures have had the natural effect of diminishing the quantity received by the agents to 90,000 okes instead of 600,000.

It is, however, to be hoped, that the Porte may in future do away with the present pernicious system pursued of monopolizing the produce of the labouring classes, at prices which hardly pay the expenses of cultivating. If the wool trade were left open, and free at sale to the highest bidder, the article would again resume its former situation, and with a little encouragement also increase in extent.

**LAMB SKINS.**—Average annual produce 80,000 ; price present season two dollars per skin. Period of receiving, March to May. This article is prepared for shipping by being previously dipped in the sea, afterward salted, and then dried.

**HARE SKINS.**—Average annual produce 100,000. Time of receiving, November to March ; rather inferior in softness to those of Asia Minor, but of a larger size.

**HIDES.**—Ox seventy dollars, cow forty-five dollars, calf thirty dollars, buffalo ninety dollars. The quantity furnished is considerable, particularly during winter and spring ; but being invariably dried (no salt being produced in this country), they are seldom exported, except for Smyrna and the Archipelago.

**SPONGES.**—Average annual produce 20,000 okes. This article seldom comes direct to Salonica for sale. It is fished in the Gulfs of Mount Athos and Contess, during summer and early in autumn. The manner here of procuring these sponges, is by making a contract with, and giving advances to the owners of the fishing boats, who engage to deliver the quantity they may procure, with the condition that the quality is approved of.

**BEESWAX, YELLOW.**—Average annual produce 40,000 okes. Deliveries commence in September, and continue until December. The quality is good and well prepared.

**DRIED PRUNES.**—Average produce yearly 20,000 okes. Last year's prices fifty paras an oke. Seasons of delivery in town from October to December. The quality is superior, and they keep sound for many months when well packed. This fruit is generally consumed on the place or at Smyrna, and sometimes shipped for America, where it arrives in sound condition.

**FILBERTS.**—Yearly average produce 200,000 okes. Present price, sixty-five to seventy paras per oke.

The season of receiving filberts at Mount Athos, the place of produce and of shipping, commences the latter end of August ; advances are always made to the extent of thirty to forty per cent. during April, May, and June, when contracts are made, without, however, specifying either quantity or price, both depending upon a good or bad season. Last year the produce exceeded 300,000 okes ; the present will not, it is reported, furnish more than a quarter of that quantity.

**WALNUTS.**—Annual average produce, 125,000 okes. Last year's prices, forty to fifty paras an oke ; season of produce from September to November. Both filberts and walnuts are of good quality, and keep sound for some

time, which is not the case with similar articles produced in other parts of Turkey, in the vicinity of the Black Sea, which latter furnishes largely, but generally for home consumption on account of inferior quality.

**RAW SILK.**—Annual average produce as regards receipts at Salonica, as follows:—

Fine imitation Piedmontese	- - - - -	5000 okes.
Second do.	do. - - - - -	11,000 do.
Third do.	do. - - - - -	5000 do.

Season of delivery from the country and in working in town, from June to October.

First quality village	- - - - -	110
Second do.	do. - - - - -	90
Third do.	do. - - - - -	80

Generally, the imitation of Piedmont silk is that exported: sometimes the first and second quality of the village production also, but the latter, as well as the third quality, is chiefly confined to the country, to Smyrna, and to Greece, for the purpose of being manufactured, mixed with cotton twist, into different kinds of stuffs worn by the inhabitants. Those who work the cocoon in town, always make advances to the villages from October to April, of thirty to forty paras, for the amount of the cocoons likely to be produced. This produce only requires encouragement and a diminution in taxes to be increased tenfold, and to become an article of great importance.

**WINE.**—It is quite impossible to calculate the extent of the produce of this article; but it may be estimated at from 10 to 20,000 tuns annually; average price fifteen to twenty paras per oke.

The country being particularly favourable for cultivating vines, there does not appear any reason for supposing that, with proper care and management, the wines made in the numerous adjacent villages might not be rendered fit to support a long sea voyage, in giving two or three paras the oke on condition that no water should be mixed with the grape. The general flavour of the wine made, when unadulterated with water and lime, resembles port or strong claret. A village, distant from Salonica about thirty miles, and called Nanste, produces a limited quantity of wine, not exceeding 100 tuns, of a very superior quality; but the producers, from the scantiness of the crop of grapes, generally demand fifty to sixty paras the oke for the wine they produce, and even then mix it with water; otherwise it would be fully equal to the best burgundy in flavour, and not much inferior to port in strength. By giving ten paras more per oke than the usual price, this taste and force might be insured.

**CORN.**—Wheat, average annual produce, 10,000 tons.

Barley,	- - - - -	5000
Oats,	- - - - -	1000
Indian corn,	- - - - -	500

Present price of wheat, - - - - -	55 paras per kintal.
Barley, - - - - -	26 " "
Oats, - - - - -	24 " "
Indian corn, - - - - -	30 " "

Season of produce, from June to August. The wheat is composed of hard and tender quality; fair description, though not very clean. The same may be said of the other grains.

This produce is mostly in the hands of a few opulent Turkish noblemen, and the quarter part is generally required for government; but a considerable quantity, except in cases of scarcity, is allowed to be exported. The killo of Salonica is equal in weight to four killoes of Constantinople.

**TIMBER.**—Quantity incalculable, as there are many hundred acres of fine forest-trees (pine, beech, oak, and walnut) still untouched; 300 small cargoes, forty to fifty tons each, are generally shipped to Smyrna, Tchesme, and other places, in the shape of stores, for fruit, wine, and oil barrels. The Pacha of Egypt sent large orders here to buy timber for ship building, and if the roads were good, the finest description of masts and spars, large enough for a three-decker, could be procured in abundance, and cheap.

**Conclusion.**—The imports, England furnishes yearly, directly, but generally indirectly, 500 tons flat bar iron, 500 bales water twist, 1000 bales white and printed cotton goods, 3000 tons copperas, 11 tons gunpowder, 50 tons lead shot, 3000 okes sal ammoniac, 500 boxes tin plates; and occasionally coffee, sugars, die-woods, cochineal, indigo, and spices; in return she receives the greater part of the oil produce, and a portion of filberts, cotton wool, sponges, hare and lamb-skins, beeswax, and sheep's wool.

Salted codfish and salmon, as well as other descriptions of cheap salted and dried fish, are largely consumed at Salonica, and in the vicinity; and the fisheries having of late years entirely failed, the wants of the place are furnished from other markets to the extent of 500 tons annually.

*Salonica, 28th August, 1832.*















